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TODAY:
STAGE
Homage to Robbins, Page 10

Resignation of Discredited Commission Provokes Crisis

Europeans Seek Quick Change in EU Leadership

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — European governments moved quickly Tuesday to replace Jacques Santer as president of the European Commission after all 20 members of the European Union's executive body resigned en masse in response to a devastating report on corruption.

In London, Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany agreed that the EU would seek to name a successor at a summit meeting in Berlin next week. The hunt was on for a candidate with "political experience,

economic knowledge, administrative skills and absolute integrity," Mr. Schröder said.

The chancellor was touring European capitals seeking a consensus on a new leadership after he

Edith Cresson's fateful traits. Page 6.
Crisis may be blessing in disguise. Page 11.

met Mr. Santer earlier in the day. But Spain and Greece said they would prefer Mr. Santer to remain in office as head of a caretaker mission. His five-year appointment and that of the other commissioners was due to end Dec. 31.

In the past, the names of Romano Prodi, the former Italian prime minister, and Javier Solana, the secretary-general of NATO, have been mentioned as possibilities.

The prospect of a quick resolution to the crisis grew as it became apparent that sentiment in the European Parliament was swinging in favor of the commission's being replaced, although commissioners who had been exonerated by the report could be reappointed. Mr. Blair said he wanted the two British commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, to continue serving.

The president of the Parliament, Jose Maria Gil Robles, said a new leader should be sought

immediately, and that to allow Mr. Santer to continue in office would be the worst of solutions. He said the heads of the Parliament's political groups unanimously supported the conclusions of the report.

The Parliament touched off the crisis earlier this year by seeking to oust the commission in a no-confidence vote over corruption. It lost that vote but succeeded in appointing a five-member committee of independent experts to investigate charges of fraud, corruption, mismanagement and nepotism.

The commissioners stepped down soon after midnight Monday after the experts' report con-

demned them for incompetence, mismanagement and loss of political control. They remained at their posts as caretakers while the governments consulted on their replacements.

Mr. Schröder said that he was anxious to show as quickly as possible that Europe was "up and running." He said the crisis would not delay attempts to reform the EU budget and open the way to new members in Eastern and Central Europe. "It is now even more important that Europe makes clear it can act decisively," he said. "We should and must make Berlin a success."

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Dow Cracks 10,000 As Bull Market Rolls

Index Is Over 5 Times Level of '87 Crash

By Mitchell Martin
International Herald Tribune

The Dow Jones industrial average traded above 10,000 points Tuesday for the first time ever — merely another big number, perhaps, but one with considerable psychological significance.

The advance propels the bull market of the past two decades to heights that surely must have seemed unattainable after the 1987 market collapse, when the Dow was at less than one-fifth that level — or perhaps as recently as October, when the global financial crisis briefly drove stocks below 8,000.

After a spurt last week, the advance stalled Friday and Monday, reflecting some second thoughts about the prices that blue-chip companies have been fetching on the stock market.

Those second thoughts apparently continued early Tuesday as the Dow, shortly after breaking through the key barrier to hit 10,001.78 points just before 10 A.M. in New York, fell back. The index closed at 9,930.47, down 28.30 points from Monday.

Still, by breaching the 10,000 mark, even if only briefly, the Dow has crossed a threshold that could encourage investors to commit even more cash to stocks, at least in the short run, some analysts say.

Whether that is a good idea is a matter of debate. It is mainly the big-company shares that are contained in the Dow, along with some large technology issues, that have seen the best gains since the current phase of the long-running rally began in 1995.

Optimists say this means that small-

er companies and overseas corporations will eventually catch up, while pessimists contend that the Dow's gains represent a financial bubble that will eventually pop.

Explaining the bullish scenario, Alan Ackerman, executive vice president of Falmesstock & Co. in New York, said, "It represents free-market economies, particularly strength in the United States, and, generally speaking, low inflation and low interest rates. Of most importance is the fact that strong economic growth is likely to be one of the dominant factors worldwide in the next few years."

Mr. Ackerman said that since the crisis sparked by Russia's default on ruble bonds in August "economies have turned from a peak of panic to a sense of stabilization. Current conditions indicate that countries like Brazil may be about to turn the corner."

The announcement this month of a revised financial agreement with the International Monetary Fund has provided hope that Brazil's near-certain decline into recession will be a short-lived affair and that it will do limited damage to the rest of Latin America.

Yet many analysts take a darker view of the situation. They note that since July 1997, when Thailand was forced to devalue its currency, a wave of deflationary pressure has circled the world, exposing bad investments made in unneeded factories and ambitious real estate developments.

The falling prices for goods and services combined with reduced in-

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President Jacques Santer of the European Commission meeting journalists Tuesday in Brussels after the entire 20-member commission, including Edith Cresson of France, below, resigned after a critical report.



Christian Lutz/The Associated Press

No Easy Fix Within View For Vacuum At the Top

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The sudden resignation of the entire European Commission has plunged the European Union into the heart of a major institutional crisis, forcing leaders to bring forward by several months the choice of someone to run the EU's executive body.

Opposition mounted in the European Parliament and in national capitals to the present team serving as caretakers until the end of their mandate on Dec. 1.

The original idea was to have chosen a new president at a summit meeting in June, giving him six months to put together a team in consultation with governments.

Some governments, notably Spain and Greece, would be happy to see Mr. Santer remain in place. But other leaders, like Wim Kok of the Netherlands, said it was time for a fresh start.

But with whom? Candidates possessing the qualities of political leadership, political skills, economic knowledge and administrative talent, which the German chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, said were necessary, are not thick on the ground — particularly when the ideal person needs to get the approval of all 15 member governments.

The EU at the same time is looking for someone to fill an almost equally high-ranking job as high representative for foreign and security affairs.

Mr. Santer was chosen as a compromise five years ago after leaders first selected and then rejected Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian prime minister, and could not agree on any one else.

Mr. Santer promised to be a manager rather than a visionary like his predecessor, Jacques Delors, and he said he would do "more with less" by proposing fewer laws and executing those already passed more efficiently.

But in the end, his management style was his undoing. The committee into corruption and nepotism at the commission blamed Mr. Santer and his team

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Pyongyang Assents to U.S. Inspections

Clinton Administration Says Agreement Vindicates Policy of Engagement

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — North Korea has agreed to allow repeated U.S. inspections of a suspected nuclear weapons site in a move the Clinton administration said vindicated its insistence on engaging the Communist government rather than isolating or confronting it.

James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, called the agreement "an important step" toward the U.S. objective of nuclear nonproliferation in Asia. The accord was reached in negotiations in New York.

Mr. Rubin said the two sides had also agreed to hold a new round of talks March 29 in Pyongyang to discuss North Korean production and sales of

ballistic missiles to Third World countries, which the United States opposes. Those negotiations began in 1996.

Although the United States this month pledged 500,000 tons of new food aid to North Korea, where a catastrophic famine is thought to have claimed millions of lives, Mr. Rubin denied that there was any direct link to the inspection agreement.

"We did not agree to North Korean demands for compensation for this access," he said.

When talks on the issue opened in November, Pyongyang demanded \$300 million as the price for access to the site, an enormous man-made cavern at Kumchangri.

Mr. Rubin added that the United States had approved plans for a private

U.S. organization to help improve potato production on North Korean farms. He called the project "very modest" and said it would be monitored to ensure that the potatoes go to needy civilians and not to the North Korean military.

The Kumchangri site, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Pyongyang, was detected last summer by U.S. satellites. Pyongyang would not reveal its purpose, though it denied there was any nuclear use.

Mr. Rubin took pains Monday to say that Washington had "no basis" to conclude that North Korea was now in violation of a 1994 agreement not to develop nuclear weaponry, but wished to ensure that no violations occurred.

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Gore's Test: Overcoming Public Doubts

By David S. Broder
and Rich Morin
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — As he begins his quest for the White House, Vice President Al Gore faces a large challenge: Most American voters want the country to continue on the path laid out by President Bill Clinton but are not convinced that Mr. Gore is the person to do it.

A new Washington Post-ABC News

poll found that the public's doubts about Mr. Gore's leadership capacity and coolness to his personality could tip the election to the Republicans. While the vice president is popular among Democrats, many voters think he is too boring or too liberal, and worry that he will not keep the economy thriving.

"I think his direction is similar to Clinton's," said Judy Sandler, a Democrat and retired fashion consultant in Marco Island, Florida. "But I think he could use some public-speaking teaching. I think he's boring. I wish he had more charisma."

A majority of the 1,515 interviewed — 56 percent — said they want a president who will keep the country moving in the direction Mr. Clinton has been taking it, rather than a new direction. And by 68 percent to 21 percent, respondents said they think that Mr. Gore's positions on important issues are basically the same as Mr. Clinton's.

But the same sample found Mr. Gore trailing the two early leaders in polls for the Republican nomination — 13 points behind Governor George Bush of Texas and eight points behind Elizabeth Dole. Taken between March 11 and March 14,

the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

While Mr. Gore matches up well against Mr. Bush on ratings for personal character traits, he lags by 27 percentage points in the rating for strong leadership. As a result, there is much less enthusiasm about the prospect of his moving up to the Oval Office.

Other vice presidents have faced, and overcome, the weak leadership problem Mr. Gore now confronts. Former President George Bush lagged behind opponents when he was a vice president about to run for the top job. In a January 1988 poll, Mr. Bush, the father of the Texas governor, lagged 12 points behind then-Senator Robert Dole as a strong leader, but he defeated Mr. Dole in New Hampshire, and went on to capture the nomination. He began the general election trailing the Democratic nominee, Michael Dukakis, then governor of Massachusetts, by eight points in leadership, and beat him handily.

Eleven months before the first delegate contests, only two out of five voters say they have enough informa-

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AGENDA

Settlements Alter West Bank Views

From bluffs above the Palestinian territories, the vista is dotted with hilltop settlements, evidence of the ongoing and willful expansion of the Jewish presence in the West Bank.

Settlers aim to sink their roots as deeply as possible in the hope that the land they occupy now will never be turned over to the Palestinian Authority.

For months, Palestinian leaders have voiced persistent criticism. They have been joined by the U.S. Embassy and other American diplomats. Page 6.

U.S. Finds Serbs 'Bracing for War'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The Yugoslav military has moved 30,000 Serbian troops into and near Kosovo and is "bracing for war" with NATO as Serb officials take part in peace talks near Paris, the Defense Department spokesman, Ken Bacon, said Tuesday.

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The IHT online www.ihonline.com

Renault Offers \$4 Billion To Buy 35% of Nissan

Deal Marks Rare Foray Into Heart of Japan Inc.

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — In one of the biggest gambles that a European car company has ever taken, Renault SA of France on Tuesday offered more than \$4 billion for 35 percent of Nissan Motor Co., Japan's huge but deeply troubled car company.

If Nissan accepts the offer, the deal would mark an unprecedented incursion by a foreign company into the innermost sanctum of Japanese industry. It would also transform Renault from a smallish European producer to one of the world's biggest players.

But analysts and industry executives said such a deal carried enormous risks. Nissan is believed to have lost more than \$1.5 billion last year, and a turnaround is nowhere in sight. Nissan also has as much as \$40 billion in total debt, and much of it is difficult to identify because it lies with affiliated companies and is not part of Nissan's official balance sheet.

There are also major questions about control. Although Renault would hold several Nissan board seats and be able to veto major decisions, it would not necessarily have the power to dictate strategy or fire top executives.

Just last week, DaimlerChrysler AG abruptly walked away from a deal with Nissan. At the time, Daimler executives complained that Nissan did not have an

adequate turnaround plan and would require too much attention to be worth the trouble. Renault, however, had openly expressed its interest in Nissan. After Daimler ended talks, Renault's chairman, Louis Schweitzer, said he was still interested.

Renault would install three of its executives, led by Mr. Schweitzer, on Nissan's board.

But the big question for Renault is, why? After losing about \$1 billion in 1996, Renault bounced back with a highly popular line of new cars and minivans. Last year, it earned about \$1.4 billion on \$40 billion in sales.

But Renault, in which the French government owns 44 percent of the stock, remains a smaller player in a field increasingly dominated by giants like DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. About 85 percent of Renault's cars are sold in Europe, and most of those are in France itself. It has little presence in the United States and virtually none in Asia.

Company executives, speaking on condition of anonymity, offer several reasons for their interest in Nissan.

As Japan's second-highest car company after Toyota Motor Corp., they argue, Nissan would give Renault a powerful presence in Asia as well as in the United States. Renault, they add,

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Newsstand Prices	
Andorra	10.00 FF Lebanon 11.3000
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Italy	1.000 CFA Spain 250 Ptas
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA Tunisia 1.250 Dhs
Jordan	1.250 JD U.A.E. 10.00
Kuwait	700 Fils U.S. M. (Eur) \$1.20



New York Survival Course / Mayor Defends Officers' Tough Tactics

Learning to Deal With an Enemy: The Police

By Michael Grunwald
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — "We're here to teach you how to survive," the detective Terrance Wansley of the New York City Department tells his audience at a Bronx community center. "It's dangerous out there. You need to learn to protect yourselves so you can stay alive."

This doomsday rhetoric may sound out of place in the "new" New York, where Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his army of 40,000 police officers have won international acclaim for winning the war on crime. But Mr. Wansley and his colleagues are not teaching how to survive encounters with gang members or muggers. They are teaching how to survive encounters with police.

Their message is as chilling as it is simple. The golden rule is: Comply. No matter how unwarranted the stop, no matter how abusive the cop, comply. Do not make sudden moves. Do not reach for your license without asking permission. And do not dare get wise.

"Sure, you've got rights," Mr. Wansley tells the all-minority crowd. "But your most important right is your right to go home to your family. The street is not the place to play Johnnie Cochran." Mr. Wansley's group, 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, has been delivering its survival seminars to New Yorkers of color almost every night since Feb. 4, when an unarmed West African street vendor named Amadou Diallo died in a fusillade of 41 bullets fired by four white New York police officers outside his apartment in the Bronx.

That shooting has become the latest flashpoint in New York's history of racial conflict, and perhaps the greatest challenge to Mayor Giuliani's view that more aggressive policing has paid dividends for all New Yorkers.

Six weeks after the barrage of bullets, the case is still making headlines. The flamboyant Reverend Al Sharpton still holds daily protests and sits at police headquarters; on Monday, former Mayor David Dinkins and U.S. Representatives Charles Rangel and Gregory Meeks, both New York Democrats, were arrested along with him and charged with criminal trespass.

The four officers have yet to give statements to investigators, but the mayor has refused to criticize them, and no one has been suspended from his job.

Federal prosecutors have moved in to oversee the investigation, and the city's Civilian Complaint Review Board has launched a probe of the elite street crimes unit to which the officers belonged.

Needless to say, the incident has also prompted a flurry of lawsuits. Mr. Cochran, the lawyer who became famous in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, has signed on to represent the Diallo family. And Mayor Giuliani has announced a \$10 million recruitment drive to diversify the police force, which



After Amadou Diallo, right, was killed by police bullets, minorities in New York City are being taught that the golden rule is to comply with officers. Protesting the death of Mr. Diallo, former Mayor David Dinkins, left, the Reverend Al Sharpton, center left, Congressman Charles Rangel, center right, and the Reverend Herbert Daugherty go down on one knee to await their arrest.



who runs 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement. He says that every one of its members has been harassed by white officers while off duty. "We're sick of brothers and sisters getting killed and brutalized. We're saying: Here are some practical tips to avoid that."

The tips include: Always carry ID. Always remain calm. It is probably going to be up to you to defuse the situation, so be polite. If your car is pulled over, keep your hands in plain view. And never reach into your pockets: a lawyer for the officers in the Diallo case has said they thought he was reaching for a gun.

The seminars touch briefly on the dangers and difficulties of police work. Mostly, though, the seminar portrays the typical officer as a loose cannon from Long Island, suspicious of anyone with dark skin, ready to give beatings for "contempt of cop," looking for excuses to frisk blacks.

These are generalizations that Mayor Giuliani assails as "anti-police prejudice," but when Mr. Wansley asked if anyone in the room knew a victim of police brutality, almost every hand was raised. Sylvia Morales, a legal secretary from the Bronx, once woke up at 2 A.M. with an officer's gun to her head. The police had knocked down her door on a drug raid, but they had the wrong address for their search warrant. "If I made a move like Diallo, I might be dead, too," she said. "When you panic in this city, bad things can happen to you."

The mayor resents the implication that the police force is a danger to minorities, and he angrily rejects complaints that his "zero-tolerance" policies on crime have translated into the harassment of law-abiding residents of minority neighborhoods.

He acknowledged at a prayer vigil Sunday that the Diallo case was a "terrible, terrible tragedy," but he said he believed that most people of color in New York should be delighted with aggressive police tactics.

For starters, he points out, fewer of them are getting killed.

is two-thirds white overall, with a command staff that is more than 90 percent white.

The bottom line is that even though police shootings are rare here and crime is still plunging — police officers in Washington shoot five times as often as New York's, and its crime rate is double New York's — there is an unmistakable feeling in many minority neighborhoods that the police is an enemy force.

The officers of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement do not even try to deny this. They just explain how to handle the enemy.

"It's very sad, but we've got to deal with reality the way it is," said Eric Adams, a police lieutenant

9 of 10 Blacks, in Poll, Fear New York Force

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In the aftermath of the shooting death of a West African immigrant, Amadou Diallo, fewer than a quarter of all New Yorkers believe that the police treat blacks and whites evenly, with blacks in particular viewing the police with fear and distrust, according to a New York Times poll.

Nearly 9 out of 10 black residents questioned in the survey said they thought that the police often engaged in brutality against blacks, and almost two-thirds said that police brutality against members of minority groups in general was widespread. Also,

more than two-thirds of blacks said the policies of the Giuliani administration have caused an increase in police brutality.

The survey suggests that police matters and race relations — along with a growing dislike for the assertive style of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani — have combined to give him the lowest job-approval rating of his five-year tenure, 42 percent, reflecting a sudden, precipitous drop in his popularity. Just five months ago, a New York Times/CBS News poll found that 63 percent of city residents approved of Mr. Giuliani's performance.

U.S. Said to Bar Drug Probe of Mexico Defense Chief

By Tim Golden
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Early last year, as undercover U.S. Customs agents neared the end of the biggest investigation ever into the illegal movement of drug money, bankers working with Mexico's most powerful cocaine cartel approached them with a stunning offer.

The agents, posing as money launderers from Colombia, had insinuated themselves deep into the Mexican underworld, helping the traffickers hide more than \$60 million.

Now, money men working with the cartel said they had clients who needed to launder \$1.15 billion more. The most important of those clients, they said, was Mexico's defense minister.

The customs agents didn't know whether the money really existed or if any of it belonged to the minister, General Enrique Cervantes, officials said.

But having heard about American intelligence reports pointing to corruption at high levels of the Mexican military, the agents were mystified by what happened next.

Rather than continue the undercover operation to pursue the deal, Clinton administration officials ordered it shut down on schedule several weeks later.

No further effort was ever made to investigate the offer, and officials said prosecutors had not even raised the matter with the suspects in the case, who have pleaded guilty and are cooperating with the authorities.

"Why are we sitting on this kind of information?" asked the former senior customs agent who led the undercover probe, William Gately. "It's either because we're lazy, we're stupid, or the political will doesn't exist to engage in the kind of investigation where our law-enforcement efforts might damage our foreign policy."

Senior administration officials denied that foreign policy influenced their decision to end the operation, saying they were moved primarily by concerns for their security. They also emphasized that the agents were unable to verify the Mexican traffickers' claims.

Other officials of the administration, which has based much of its Mexican drug strategy on collaboration with the general, said they were confident that he was above reproach. A spokesman for the Mexican Defense Ministry, Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Aguilar Hernandez, dismissed the traffickers' proposal as self-serving lies.

But a detailed account of the case — based on confidential government documents, court records and dozens of interviews — suggests that U.S. officials walked away from an extraordinary opportunity to examine allegations of the official corruption that is considered the main obstacle to anti-drug efforts in

Mexico. For nearly a decade, American officials have been haunted by the spectacle of Mexican officials being linked to illicit activities soon after they are embraced in Washington. And just weeks before the customs investigation, known as Operation Casablanca, ended last year, administration officials received intelligence reports indicating that the Mexican military's ties to the drug trade were more serious than had been previously thought.

But when faced with the possibility that one of Washington's critical Mexican allies might be linked to the traffickers, the officials gave the matter little consideration. They said they opted for a sure thing, arresting midlevel traffickers and their financial associates and at least disrupting the money laundering system that drug gangs had set up.

To reach for a general, they said, would have added to their risks with no certainty of success.

GIs Train Hard for War, But Is It the Right One?

By Steven Lee Myers
New York Times Service

FORT IRWIN, California — Out in the rough ochre hills of California's high desert, Staff Sergeant Joseph Burris of the 4th Infantry Division clambered from his Abrams tank, dusty and tired, and explained how the "enemy" had knocked him out of the day's war game.

A veteran of the enormous tank battle that helped rout the Iraqis in the Gulf War in 1991, Sergeant Burris said the army had nearly replicated the experience of actual battle here at the National Training Center — from the "minefield" he dodged earlier in the day to the two "shells" he didn't.

"It's pretty close to the real thing," he said.

But is it the right thing? Here at Fort Irwin, where U.S. combat brigades prepare to fight the next war, the army is still, by and large, training to fight the last one.

A decade after the end of the Cold War and eight years after the heavy triumph of Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf, the units that come to this sprawling desert base take on an opposing force designed to look like some Warsaw Pact behemoth — even though Warsaw itself now is the capital of a new NATO ally.

It is an enemy no one expects them to face, in terrain no one expects them to encounter, with tactics no one is certain will prevail.

"No one is going to fight us like that anymore," said General John Abrams, commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, referring to Iraq's attempt in 1990 and 1991 to confront an American-led coalition with Soviet-era methods and weapons. "They all watched CNN. They know what we can do."

Facing that reality, the army is now moving to change the way it organizes its units and trains to fight.

Last month, the army announced plans to create a "strike force," one able to move more quickly than the army's heavy armored divisions but still carry a significant punch. The army is also devising new technologies, relying on satellites and computers to give soldiers an advantage in battle.

That, the army says, will help it adapt to 21st-century warfare, which is far more likely to involve missile threats and guerrilla tactics than set-piece tank battles.

But military specialists and reform-minded critics, some within the army itself, say the service has moved far too slowly to transform a force that, although smaller, looks much as it did when the United States was braced to slug it out with the Communists on the plains of Central Europe.

"The short answer is: No, the army is not doing what it needs to do," said Representative William Thornberry, Republican of Texas, who is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, "nor are the other services."

The problem, he and others argue, is that bureaucracy, tradition and history have bound the army to the status quo. "After all, we won the Cold War," Mr. Thornberry said. "There is not the incentive to change as there would be if they had lost the last war."

No one seriously doubts the U.S. Army is still the best-equipped, best-trained force in the world at this time. As it approaches the turn of the century, however, the army is seen as the armed service having the most difficult time making the transition from the Cold War to this new, ill-defined and unpredictable era.

Many of the difficulties are inherent to the army. It is the largest of the four major services and — even as most American military action occurs in faraway places — the least mobile.

Since the 1980s, the army has shrunk 40 percent — from 780,000 soldiers to roughly 470,000 today. It once had 18 divisions; it now has 10, six "heavy" armored divisions and four "light" infantry or airborne divisions. At the same time, the army is as busy as it has ever been.

While the United States was able to pull back in Europe in the 1990s, the army still keeps 37,000 soldiers in South

Korea to repel a potential invasion from the North. The army is also relied upon more and more to carry out peacekeeping and other missions — from Somalia to Haiti, Bosnia to hurricane relief in Central America — that the other services are less equipped to do.

"The army is having a nervous breakdown," said Stephen Peter Rosen, professor of government at Harvard University and a former official at the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment. "It's being asked to fight a lot of little wars and to prepare itself to fight the next big war."

The challenge of finding a balance falls to officers such as General Abrams, whose headquarters at Fort Monroe, Virginia, oversees all of the army's training and war-fighting experiments, including the effort to create what the service calls the Army After Next.

General Abrams, son of another four-star commander, General Creighton Abrams, a former army chief of staff, said the army had recognized the need to adapt.

He said it had already begun to incorporate hard realities of the post-Cold War era, including lessons learned in missions such as a disastrous assault in Somalia in October 1993 that left 18 Americans dead.

But, he added, more needed to be done in devising new tactics and highly technical weapons, some of them still just figments of an industry's imagination, such as a new generation of "light tanks" more powerful but smaller than the current Abrams tanks (named, as it happens, for his father).

You can't just apply New World variables to a Warsaw-based doctrine," General Abrams said. "In my mind, that is not enough for us to keep our edge."

Even the heaviest brigades, he added, had to prepare for "asymmetric threats" such as missile strikes, that are more likely than ever to succeed in combat. "The Iranians, the Iraqis, the North Koreans — all of them are making adjustments," he said.

Here at Fort Irwin's training grounds, spread over more than 600,000 acres (250,000 hectares) of the high desert near Barstow, California, the army has begun to make its own adjustments.

Meeting with senior officers during a visit here, General Abrams said the base needed to build an urban center to fight in — not a cut-out town in the open desert but a "city" in one of the craggy canyons that render the terrain here.

His idea of the most likely enemy the army will face is "a hostile force using a human shield in an urban area that is a sanctuary."

"That's how you defeat our technologies," the general said.

Balloonists Approach Mexico in Record Bid

Reuters

GENEVA — The Swiss-British balloonists aimed the Mexican coast Tuesday, on course to complete their bid to be the first to circle the world nonstop by reaching North Africa at the weekend.

Bernard Piccard of Switzerland and Brian Jones of Britain caught a high-speed jet stream far above the Pacific Ocean and were due to fly over La Paz, Mexico, said their flight director, Alan Noble.

The pair, who had never planned to fly so far south in their quest around Breitling Orbiter-3, have hastily sought and succeeded in winning overflight rights from Mexico and Cuba.

Mr. Piccard and Mr. Jones, both nursing colds at an altitude of 10,600 meters (35,000 feet), aim to pass south of Cuba on Thursday and head out over the Atlantic toward North Africa.

"We are still looking at reaching Africa over Mauritania," Mr. Noble said. "The problem with landing in Mauritania or the Western Sahara is that the infrastructure is not there for an around-the-world balloon landing."

"We are considering keeping it flying an extra day and possibly putting down in Egypt, but there is no decision yet."

The huge balloon has traveled 29,000 kilometers (18,000 miles) since taking off March 1 from Switzerland.

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Corrections

An article in some Saturday-Sunday editions about the celebration in Poland on joining NATO misstated the date of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. It was April 1943.

An article in some editions Tuesday about EU duty free sales gave the wrong date. Finance ministers met Monday.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Japan and China Cities Are Costliest

GENEVA (AP) — Despite Asian financial turmoil, Tokyo and four other cities in Japan and China have the world's highest cost of living for foreigners, according to an annual survey released Tuesday.

Except for Moscow in sixth place and London in eighth, all the 10 costliest cities were in Asia. The report, which is intended for use by governments and corporations, was based on a survey conducted in autumn, the Corporate Resources Group said.

5 Hurt in Paris Tourist Boat Crash

PARIS (AFP) — Five tourists were injured Tuesday, three seriously, when a pleasure cruise boat crashed into a bridge on the Seine river, the police said. The boat was carrying 150 people when it crashed into a pillar of the Pont Marie bridge leading to the Ile St. Louis, one of the river's islands. Three women were in a serious condition, suffering from cuts and neck injuries, police said. Two other people, including a child, also sustained slight injuries.

Trucks will be banned from crossing the border between France and Spain in the Basque region Friday due to the expected heavy traffic related to the Saint Joseph holiday in Spain, French authorities said Tuesday. (AFP)

The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok advised all U.S. government employees Tuesday to stay away from northern sections of the Thai provinces of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai because of a kidnapping threat from drug traffickers. It also urged U.S. citizens living in the two northern provinces to review their personal security in light of the advisory. (Reuters)

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WEATHER

Europe				Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.				Asia			
City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High
Algeria	10/20	8/16	21/18	Amman	18/22	14/20	28/28	Algeria	17/20	14/16	28/28
Amman	18/22	14/20	28/28	Beijing	23/27	14/20	28/28	Beijing	23/27	14/20	28/28
Beijing	23/27	14/20	28/28	Bombay	28/32	24/26	32/32	Bombay	28/32	24/26	32/32
Bombay	28/32	24/26	32/32	Buenos Aires	20/24	16/20	28/28	Buenos Aires	20/24	16/20	28/28
Buenos Aires	20/24	16/20	28/28	Calcutta	28/32	24/26	32/32	Calcutta	28/32	24/26	32/32
Calcutta	28/32	24/26	32/32	Caracas	28/32	24/26	32/32	Caracas	28/32	24/26	32/32
Caracas	28/32	24/26	32/32	Chengdu	20/24	16/20	28/28	Chengdu	20/24	16/20	28/28
Chengdu	20/24	16/20	28/28	Colon	28/32	24/26	32/32	Colon	28/32	24/26	32/32
Colon	28/32	24/26	32/32	Dhaka	28/32	24/26	32/32	Dhaka	28/32	24/26	32/32
Dhaka	28/32	24/26	32/32	Hanoi	28/32	24/26	32/32	Hanoi	28/32	24/26	32/32
Hanoi	28/32	24/26	32/32	Harbin	28/32	24/26	32/32	Harbin	28/32	24/26	32/32
Harbin	28/32	24/26	32/32	Hong Kong	28/32	24/26	32/32	Hong Kong	28/32	24/26	32/32
Hong Kong	28/32	24/26	32/32	Kobe	28/32	24/26	32/32	Kobe	28/32	24/26	32/32
Kobe	28/32	24/26	32/32	London	28/32	24/26	32/32	London	28/32	24/26	32/32
London	28/32	24/26	32/32	Manila	28/32	24/26	32/32	Manila	28/32	24/26	32/32
Manila	28/32	24/26	32/32	Medan	28/32	24/26	32/32	Medan	28/32	24/26	32/32
Medan	28/32	24/26	32/32	Moscow	28/32	24/26	32/32	Moscow	28/32	24/26	32/32
Moscow	28/32	24/26	32/32	Osaka	28/32	24/26	32/32	Osaka	28/32	24/26	32/32
Osaka	28/32	24/26	32/32	Paris	28/32	24/26	32/32	Paris	28/32	24/26	32/32
Paris	28/32	24/26	32/32	Perth	28/32	24/26	32/32	Perth	28/32	24/26	32/32
Perth	28/32	24/26	32/32	Rangoon	28/32	24/26	32/32	Rangoon	28/32	24/26	32/32
Rangoon	28/32	24/26	32/32	Seoul	28/32	24/26	32/32	Seoul	28/32	24/26	32/32
Seoul	28/32	24/26	32/32	Singapore	28/32	24/26	32/32	Singapore	28/32	24/26	32/32
Singapore	28/32	24/26	32/32	Taipei	28/32	24/26	32/32	Taipei	28/32	24/26	32/32
Taipei	28/32	24/26	32/32	Tokyo	28/32	24/26	32/32	Tokyo	28/32	24/26	32/32
Tokyo	28/32	24/26	32/32	Yokohama	28/32	24/26	32/32	Yokohama	28/32	24/26	32/32
Yokohama	28/32	24/26	32/32								

THE AMERICAS

A New Forbes Starts 2d Bid for Republican Nomination

By Terry M. Neal
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The date was Oct. 21, 1997. The audience was the Heritage Foundation, bastion of conservative thought. For Steve Forbes, the wealthy publisher from New Jersey, his appearance here was a coming out of sorts.

No longer would Mr. Forbes be deflecting questions about abortion and school vouchers by returning every topic to his favorite subject, the flat tax. Instead, he had come to give a talk titled "The Moral Basis of a Free Society."

Mr. Forbes was practicing that day for his next bid for the Republican presidential nomination, after surprising and irking the party establishment with his candidacy in 1996. On Tuesday, he began his second campaign for the nomination, on the Internet and with a trip to New Hampshire, site of the first-in-the-nation primary election.

He emerged almost from nowhere in 1996, using his millions, flat-tax mantra and Washington-outside message to make himself into a force in the Republican primaries, and in the process doing much damage to the candidate

who won the nomination, Bob Dole.

This time, political strategists say, Mr. Forbes has the potential to genuinely compete for the nomination, because he has broadened his message and because no Republican candidate other than Governor George Bush of Texas is as likely to have the financial resources to go the distance.

Mr. Forbes, 51, has hired top-notch strategists, and while he can still appear awkward and stiff, he has improved his appearance, sharpened his rhetoric and honed his speechmaking, political observers say. And this time round, voters can expect a very different candidate from the one whose robotic recital of the glories of the flat tax in 1996 carried him to victories in Delaware and Arizona but forced him to drop out after fourth-place finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Mr. Forbes's last campaign failed to attract the active base of social conservatives, who disliked what they believed were vague and evasive answers on such social issues as abortion and private-school vouchers. But in the three years since then, Mr. Forbes — who once called the Christian Coalition founder, Pat Robertson, a toothy flake — has recast

himself as a standard bearer of the religious right wing of the Republican Party. In the scores of speeches he has delivered since then, he has emphasized America's moral challenges as much as its economic ones.

"There's still a major vacuum out there," Mr. Forbes said in an interview on Friday. "There's no one pushing fervently and inspirationally on the policies that we need. Without strong leadership, these things won't get done — on taxes, social security, moral issues like school choice and life."

The new Mr. Forbes was on display in January, at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference meeting in Northern Virginia, where he reiterated his support for the flat tax, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service and privatizing Social Security. Then he switched directions.

"These ideas will only take us so far without a clear message on the moral and spiritual challenges facing this country," he said. "People expect more of their leaders. The times require it. But above all, conscience demands it."

This from the man who angered religious conservatives in 1996 by proclaiming that the Christian Coalition "does not speak for most

Christians." Mr. Forbes insists that his values and positions have remained consistent. But he acknowledged that the issues he was emphasizing had evolved since 1996. Mr. Forbes said that because he entered late in the previous race as a virtual unknown, he had to make his mark with a simple, straightforward message.

He characterized his new focus as more pragmatic than political.

In 1996, Mr. Forbes had almost no grassroots organization, so he relied on a television and radio advertising campaign financed by more than \$37 million of his own money. He shot up in polls in Iowa and New Hampshire as a result of the advertising blitz. But when his opponents attacked his plan for a flat tax, the voters took a second look and Mr. Forbes's standing plummeted.

He directed much of his advertising at Mr. Dole, and many Republican leaders have never forgiven him for it. When asked whether he would use the same expensive advertising strategy this time, Mr. Forbes insisted that he had never personally attacked another Republican and that he looked "forward to a campaign with a vigorous debate on the issues, to substance, not sizzle and spin."

BRIEFLY

Mrs. Clinton's Testimony Shown

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — In testimony first made public Tuesday, Hillary Rodham Clinton said she had not monitored the records of the Whitewater land deal that later prompted an independent counsel investigation. "I never spent any significant time at all looking at the books and records of Whitewater," she told Kenneth Starr's prosecutors in testimony videotaped in April 1998.

Forty minutes of the tape was shown in court as part of the contempt trial of Susan McDougal, who has refused to answer prosecutors' questions about her Whitewater partnership with the Clintons, which began in 1978.

Disclosure of Mrs. Clinton's secret testimony in 1998 revived the troublesome Whitewater issue as she is considering a run for the U.S. Senate in New York.

In the videotape, Hickman Ewing Jr., a deputy in the independent counsel, showed Mrs. Clinton a \$27,600 cashier's check payable to Bill Clinton that was used to pay off a Whitewater debt. Mrs. McDougal's husband, Jim, had taken the funds from a financial institution he owned. "Did you know that that loan was being paid off by check in your husband's name?" Mr. Ewing asked. "I'm sorry, Mr. Ewing," Mrs. Clinton said. "I don't know anything about this."

Mr. Ewing also asked her about a \$5,081.82 check signed by Mrs. McDougal seven months after the other check. It bore the notation "pay off Clinton" and was used to pay off part of a loan in Bill Clinton's name. "I have never seen these documents before," Mrs. Clinton said. (AP)

Medicare Panel Set to Collapse

WASHINGTON — A year after setting out to chart a secure future for Medicare, a high-powered federal commission is so deadlocked that it was expected to collapse Tuesday when it convened for the last time — without sending any advice to Congress or the White House, according to federal sources.

Despite a frantic search for compromises in recent days, the chairman, Senator John Breaux, Democrat of Louisiana, acknowledged Monday that he had not mustered enough votes to support his vision of how to reform the national health insurance program for the elderly. (WP)

Democrats Opt for Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Evoking the glories and the ghost of John F. Kennedy, the Democratic National Committee has announced that it will hold its 2000 national convention here. The event was last in Los Angeles in 1960. (NYT)

Train Derails in Illinois; 13 Die and 100 Are Hurt

The Associated Press

BOURBONNAIS, Illinois — Rescue crews continued searching Tuesday through the twisted bulk of an Amtrak train that struck a truck and derailed, but hopes of finding more survivors were fading.

At least 13 people were killed, more than 100 were injured and 5 others were missing and presumed dead. There were 216 people aboard the train.

"To find survivors in the wreckage would be pretty unlikely," said the Bourbonnais fire chief, Mike Harshbarger.

Amtrak's "City of New Orleans" train, bound from Chicago to New Orleans, careened off the tracks shortly after 9:30 P.M. Monday when it slammed into a semitrailer loaded with heavy steel bars at a crossing 30 miles (80 kilometers) south of Chicago.

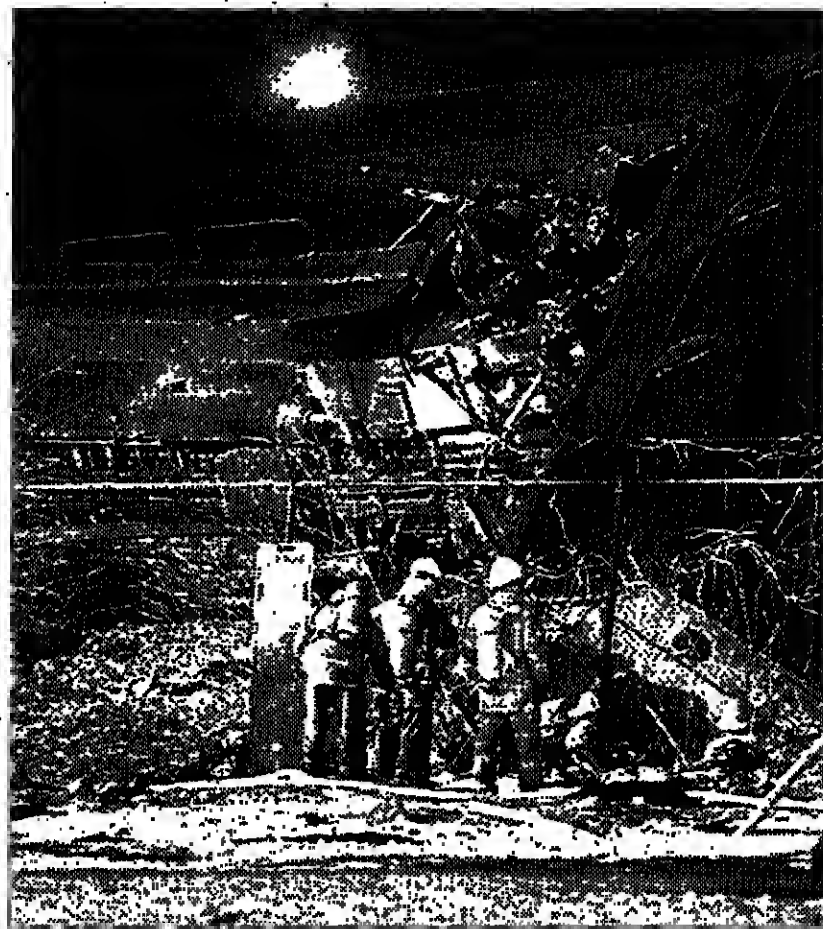
All of the dead were aboard one sleeper car near the front of the train. As the impact sent engines and cars flying, the car was pierced by one of the engines and then set afire by leaking diesel fuel.

Rescue workers were digging by hand through debris in that car Tuesday morning, Mr. Harshbarger said.

Amtrak said in a news release that the local coroner had confirmed 13 deaths. Earlier, officials said six people were unaccounted for.

"I was trying to go to sleep. Then all of the sudden everything just started trashing and catching on fire and people hollering and running. It was awful," said Blanche Jones, a passenger from Memphis, Tennessee.

The truck was leaving a nearby Birmingham Steel Co. facility. Cy Gura, a safety engineer with the National Transportation Safety Board team at the scene, said that the driver told the authorities he did not see the train or flashing warning lights until he had already started driving across the tracks. The man, whose name was not released, was unable to get entirely across in time, Mr. Gura said.



Firefighters surveying the wreckage of an Amtrak passenger train that derailed in Illinois after hitting a truck loaded with steel at a rail crossing.

Away From Politics

Science needs to preserve laboratory specimens of the smallpox virus to make sure there is a way to make vaccines should the deadly disease ever be used as a bioterrorism weapon, according to a committee of experts in Washington. (AP)

The Rev. Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention USA, one of the nation's largest and most influential black denominations, has resigned two weeks after he was convicted of swindling more than \$4 million. (AP)

David Hale, a retired two-star general, accused of having affairs with wives of subordinates will face court-martial on charges of making false statements and conduct unbecoming an officer, the army said. (AFP)

Hundreds of children's lives could be saved each year if they used booster seats and seat belts more, said an expert panel that recommends strengthening seat belt laws and having children use booster seats longer. (AP)

Four endangered Mexican gray wolves have been freed to roam the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona, the first of their breed released this year in efforts to restore the animals in their natural habitat. (AP)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Fight Over Genetically Altered Food Is Bound to Have Worldwide Fallout

By Sonni Efron
Los Angeles Times Service

TOKYO — The video whirs, and an American food exporter's nightmare rolls across the screen. A potato bug is shown munching on the deep green leaf of a potato plant — genetically engineered in the United States, the narrator says, to produce a toxin that kills Colorado potato beetle larvae. The bug falls off the leaf, flailing its legs in the air in what looks like insect agony.

"They say this is safe, but I don't want to eat it. Do you?" asked the filmmaker, Junichi Kowaka, in an interview.

Surveys show that most Japanese do not. In this land where food is considered most delicious when eaten raw or as close to its natural state as possible, genetically manipulated food is seen as synthetic, unwholesome and definitely unappealing.

To blunt a nascent consumer rebellion, the Japanese government has proposed labeling bioengineered food to give consumers the freedom to reject it. That in turn has alarmed the United States, which fears that the move could threaten its \$11 billion annual sales to Japan, the No. 1 market for U.S. agricultural exports.

Beyond Japan, a truly global food fight is under way. The outcome of the regulatory, marketing and public perception battle that has been joined in Japan could have far-reaching effects on what U.S. farmers plant next year, on the skyrocketing U.S.-Japan trade imbalance and on the worldwide struggle between biofood promoters and foes.

At issue in the emotional political debate is how much to regulate and whether and how to label genetically modified organisms, known in biospeak as GMOs.

These organisms are created when new genes — sometimes from another species — are introduced into a plant or animal to produce desirable traits, such as resistance to cold, pests, disease, spoilage or even a particular brand of herbicide.

While U.S. farmers are quickly increasing the acreage planted with GMO seeds — to 40 percent or more of some crops — there is growing opposition in Europe, Japan and in some Third World countries on environmental, health, philosophical or religious grounds. The European Union has slapped restrictions on genetically modified plants and passed a law requiring GMO foods to be labeled.

Well-organized environmental groups are crusading against what they have branded "Frankenstein food," fanning doubts about the products from Iceland to New Zealand. Anti-GMO

protests have been staged in the Philippines, India and Hungary, according to activists, who are flooding the Internet with virulent attacks on biofoods.

Not all countries are hostile to foods altered by gene-splicing: GMO seeds reportedly have received a warm welcome in Russia, China and Argentina. And plenty of consumers have nothing against GMO foods so long as they know what is on the menu.

A 1994 poll in Australia, for example, found that 61 percent were happy to try GMO foods, but 89 percent wanted them labeled. Australia and New Zealand are now trying to set up a common labeling system. Prime Minister Jenny Shipley of New Zealand said earlier this month that consumers have a right to know whether their food contains GMOs.

Nevertheless, a heated battle broke out last month at a UN-sponsored conference in Cartagena, Colombia, where

delegates from more than 130 countries failed to agree on an international treaty to govern biosafety and trade in GMOs.

The U.S. government warned that the restrictions being debated in Cartagena would paralyze international trade.

The debate is by no means limited to food: Genetically modified material is being used in a wide range of products, from textiles to pharmaceuticals.

Yet it is food that seems to generate the most emotional response.

Consumer advocates say that people must have the right to know — and thus reject — food that has been subjected to genetic "tampering."

Biotech backers say that requiring such labels is tantamount to branding demonstrably safe food as inedible and would raise food prices for all consumers.

Proponents of bioengineering also say

"genetically enhanced" species are essential to generate the crop yields needed to nourish the world's exploding population and to reduce use of herbicides and pesticides. They say the foods have been exhaustively tested and demonstrated to be safe enough to pass muster with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as international regulators.

Foes assert that long-term studies on the effects of eating GMO foods have been inadequate. They question the environmental risks of developing pest-resistant or chemical-resistant crops, and they fear that bionic organisms could crowd out native species.

A subplot in many countries is suspicion of scientific "miracles," new technologies and imperfect regulators, and the perception that the U.S. biotech industry has been heavy-handed in trying to shove new foods down frightened consumers' throats, said Beth Burrows, president of the nonprofit Edmonds Institute in Edmonds, Washington, who attended the Cartagena conference.

In Japan, the credibility of the Ministry of Health and Welfare was severely damaged by the 1996 revelation that its bureaucrats had knowingly allowed the sale of HIV-tainted blood products — a scandal that broke the same year that the ministry approved the first of 22 GMO crops for human consumption here.

Availability of GMO foods in Japan has not led to acceptance.

More than 80 percent of those questioned in a 1997 government survey said they had "reservations" about such foods, and 92.5 percent favored mandatory labeling.

Unsettled is beginning to translate into action.

The city of Fujisawa, near Tokyo, has banned all GMO foodstuffs from its school lunches. A tofu maker has begun advertising its product as "recombinant-DNA soybean free." And a number of powerful food-buying co-ops, which claim nearly 20 million members, or about 1 in every 6 Japanese, are trying to screen out or label GMO foods.

Mr. Kowaka's video with the Colorado potato bug footage has sold about 1,000 copies at \$130 each. Titled "The Dangers of Recombinant-DNA Food," it is being shown at lectures and gatherings by consumer, environmental and religious groups, he said.

"It seems Americans only care about the quantity of their food, but Japanese are concerned about the quality," Mr. Kowaka said. "Nobody wants to eat this stuff."

Beijing Urges EU to Avoid New Disputes Over Rights

Reuters

BEIJING — China urged the European Union on Tuesday to avoid disputes over the issue of human rights as Beijing worked to sidestep a session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva next week.

Responding to questions about a visiting European rights delegation, Sun Yuxi, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, admitted the two sides had a history of strife over China's treatment of dissidents. But he said difficulties had ended.

"This issue used to be a serious obstacle disrupting ties," Mr. Sun said at a regular briefing.

He urged the EU to continue "valuing the good momentum in the field of human rights and not revert to confrontation."

A visiting three-member team of diplomats from Austria, Germany and Finland met the Foreign Ministry officials Wang Yingfan and Li Baodong for the fifth round of an EU dialogue with China on human rights.

Mr. Sun refused to provide details of the talks, but diplomats in Beijing said the discussions were expected to set the tone for the annual Geneva forum and help Europe decide whether to sponsor a resolution critical of the Chinese record. "All options remain open," said a Western diplomat close to the EU delegation.

In recent years, China has released from prison and forced into exile several opposition activists, including the country's best known dissident, Wei Jingsheng, and Wang Dan, the former student leader.

But a roundup of almost all leading members of the outlawed opposition China Democracy Party since late last year has sparked calls for an anti-Beijing resolution at the six-week Geneva session, scheduled to begin Monday.

In the United States, both houses of Congress have voted unanimously for a resolution condemning China, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright issued a warning to China over its deteriorating record during a visit there this month.

After leaving Beijing early Wednesday, the delegates will brief their governments in time for EU foreign ministers to meet and flesh out their Geneva strategy, the Western diplomat said.

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan of China said any attempt by Western countries to pass a resolution critical of Beijing would fail.

Premier Zhu Rongji defended China's rights record Monday, saying its Parliament had passed many laws to strengthen the protection of basic human rights. He also admitted that China's record was not perfect.

"We welcome foreign friends to criticize our work," Mr. Zhu said, adding that it was "impossible not to have shortcomings."



Passengers waving in New Delhi on Tuesday as they prepared for journey through tense areas.

Pakistan-India Bus Carries Peace Hopes

Reuters

NEW DELHI — The first commercial bus to travel between Pakistan and India in more than half a century arrived here Tuesday night.

A crowd of Indian Muslim well-wishers clustered around the gates of the bus terminal with garlands for the 20 passengers, and bus officials passed around cold drinks and bouquets of roses.

The service was inaugurated Feb. 20 by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India during a cross-border visit aimed at putting relations between the two nations on a better footing after both conducted nuclear tests last May.

Two Pakistani soldiers sat on the bus on the long drive to the Wagah border crossing and were replaced by Indian soldiers for the rest of the 10-hour trip to New Delhi.

A bus bound for Lahore with 29 passengers and 2 security personnel left New Delhi on Tuesday morning.

The bus is a luxury service by the standards of the subcontinent, with videos, music and television as well as meals provided en route. Passengers paid 950 rupees (about \$19) for a one-way ticket.

Western donors hope the bus service will be another step in improving relations between the two countries, which have fought three wars since Pakistan was formed from the partition of India after it gained independence from Britain in 1947.

Mr. Vajpayee and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan agreed in their "Lahore Declaration" to work toward better relations and to resolve their dispute over Kashmir, the divided Himalayan region over which two of their wars were fought.

Senators Say They'll Block China's Bid for WTO

By Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Influential senators are threatening to block the Clinton administration's diplomatic effort to improve the United States' rapidly deteriorating relations with China and have urged the suspension of some scientific exchange programs.

Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, and Senator Ernest Hollings, Democrat of South Carolina, said Monday they would move to stop any effort by the White House to help China become a member of the World Trade Organization this year, reflecting congressional anger over President Bill Clinton's response to suspicions that China has stolen U.S. nuclear secrets.

The Republican chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Richard Shelby of Alabama, urged that the president or Energy Secretary Bill Richardson put a moratorium on visits by scientists from countries such as China and Iran to American nuclear weapons laboratories and on reciprocal visits by American scientists to foreign installations.

"Our labs are not as secure as they should be," Mr. Shelby told reporters after a closed hour-long meeting with George Tenet, director of the CIA. "This perhaps is just the tip of an iceberg."

The Energy Department fired a Taiwan-born scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory last week for security breaches after the FBI questioned him in connection with the suspected theft of nuclear-weapons designs. Investigators say they believe the scientist, Wen Ho

Pentagon Reports Success in Missile-Defense Test

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — An army missile has rammed into a fast-flying test target high over New Mexico, marking an important success for the Pentagon's effort to develop weapons against ballistic missile attack, defense officials said.

The intercept on Monday by an improved version of the Patriot system followed a series of failures in other Pentagon programs to get a surface-launched missile to find and slam into a target missile speeding across the sky.

This "hit-to-kill" concept is at the core of controversial Defense Department proposals to construct a national system capable of protecting the United States against long-range missile attack.

While the advanced Patriot system is intended for the more limited purpose of guarding troops in the field against short-range missiles such as Iraqi Scuds, military authorities declared that the hit on Monday will have wider consequences for even more ambitious systems by demonstrating that "hit-to-kill" can work.

"The significance of this success can't be overstated," said Brigadier General Daniel Montgomery, who oversees the army's missile defense programs. "This certainly moves us well down the road of saying we can make these systems work."

Still, the \$6.5 billion Patriot program, like the handful of other land-based and sea-based antimissile weapons under development, remains plagued by scheduling delays and technological challenges that have more than doubled the projected cost of each new Patriot interceptor.

Lee, gave the Chinese sensitive information on nuclear detonations during a visit there for a 1998 seminar. Mr. Lee has not been charged with any crime but is the prime suspect in the case. China denies any theft and has called the allegations of nuclear espionage outlandish.

Members of the House and Senate have criticized the administration for not tightening security quickly enough and failing to keep Congress adequately informed about the seriousness of the possible breaches at Los Alamos.

David Leavy, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said Monday night the administration would work with Congress to resolve the World Trade Organization issue, but he rejected Mr. Shelby's proposal. "There's no

evidence the visitors program has contributed to any damage to national security," Mr. Leavy said.

The double-barreled attack from Capitol Hill came as Mr. Richardson and Mr. Tenet, in separate closed briefings, tried to contain the political fallout from the administration's handling of the spy case by explaining steps the administration had taken to prevent any more thefts.

Mr. Tenet announced that a retired four-star admiral, David Jeremiah, would head an independent panel of experts to review the possible harm to national security resulting from suspected thefts that took place in the 1980s and that were discovered by nuclear-arms experts at Los Alamos in 1995. Mr. Jeremiah is expected to report by early next month.

But even as the administration stepped up its defense of its response to the spy case, the White House took a blow on its trade policy with China. The warning from Mr. Helms, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Mr. Hollings, the ranking Democrat on the Commerce Committee, was issued in a letter sent to all senators.

"The continuing problems with Chinese human-rights violations, espionage and possible technology transfers," they wrote, "suggest that this is not the appropriate time for China to enter the WTO."

Only two weeks ago in Beijing, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright assured China's leaders that the question of whether China was ready to enter the World Trade Organization — a decade-

long aspiration for China and a move that could prove enormously beneficial to the country's economy — would be decided solely on commercial grounds. It would not hinge, she said, on China's human-rights record or other issues.

But in recent weeks it has become increasingly clear that even if that is the administration's plan, the atmosphere in Congress is rapidly changing. And congressional approval will be necessary, because China's entry would require a major amendment of the law that allows Congress to review annually whether to extend "most favored nation" trading status to Beijing.

"This has become a poisonous issue," one of the president's top economic advisers said recently. "And it could blow up the whole deal, if there is a deal."

The letter from Mr. Helms and Mr. Hollings, which was reported in Monday's Wall Street Journal, mirrors conditions that the House Democratic leader, Richard Gephardt of Missouri, has made and portends a tough fight for China to join the organization this year.

Even as anger in Congress grows on the trade front, there is greater anxiety over security at Los Alamos and other national weapons labs. The labs had long resisted FBI and congressional pressure to tighten their security policies.

Senator Bob Kerrey, Democrat of Nebraska, expressed concern over security at the laboratories. "I no longer have any sense of security that we're doing the right thing," he said after meeting with Mr. Tenet.

William Warwick, QE2 Skipper, Is Dead

New York Times Service

Commodore William Warwick, 86, a grizzled mariner who became first master of the last great ocean liner, died in England on Feb. 27.

He commanded the Queen Elizabeth 2 on her maiden voyage 30 years ago. When the QE2, as the ship is known, sailed into New York harbor for the first time May 7, 1969, the era of trans-Atlantic ship crossings was drawing to a close, and no other great ships could be expected to follow it, as indeed they have not.

A native of, near Liverpool, where his father was an architect, he had planned on being an architect, too. Then, as a headstrong 15-year-old, he refused to part his hair the way school authorities ordered him to and his schooling came to an end.

As a result, he was sent to a naval training vessel and found a home for life. Joining the British Merchant

BRIEFLY

Indonesia City Is Hit By Fire Amid Strife

AMBON, Indonesia — Security forces fired warning shots on Tuesday to disperse crowds that gathered after a fire broke out in this riot-torn eastern Indonesia city.

The fire was near the Al-Fatah mosque, which was sheltering 3,750 Muslims who had fled religious riots. The cause of the fire, which spread through 10 houses, was not immediately known. (AP)

Thais Arrest Suspect In Australian's Death

BANGKOK — Thai police arrested a man on Tuesday who is suspected of involvement in the murder of an Australian executive and said they had issued arrest warrants for three other people.

Police in the central province of Nakhon Sawan, where Michael Wansley was killed last week, said they had arrested Chalong Pienpong on suspicion of being the gunman or the driver of a motorcycle used in the attack. Two of the suspects work for the ailing sugar refining company that the victim, a senior accountant, was helping restructure.

Police said that Mr. Chalong denied being involved in the murder. (AP)

UN Report Finds Abuse in Burma

GENEVA — Forced labor, beatings, torture and confiscation of land are widespread in Burma, and abuses are getting worse, according to a UN report.

In its report to the UN Human Rights Commission, released Monday, an investigator said the government continued to intimidate its citizens and block free association and expression. The investigator visited displaced people in Thailand and said people had been driven from their land and made to do unpaid work for soldiers. (AP)

Vatican Is Discussing Ties With Vietnam

HANOI — A high-level Vatican delegation is in Vietnam to pursue establishment of diplomatic relations and approval for a visit by Pope John Paul II.

While relations between Hanoi and the Roman Catholic Church appeared to thaw slightly last year, it remains far from certain that the Communist government will offer an invitation. (AP)

Suicide Bomber Kills 3 Outside Colombo

COLOMBO — A suicide bomber attacked just outside the Sri Lankan capital during the rush hour Tuesday night, killing three people and wounding at least 10, the police said. The explosion was near a police station in Mount Lavinia, the police said. (AFP)

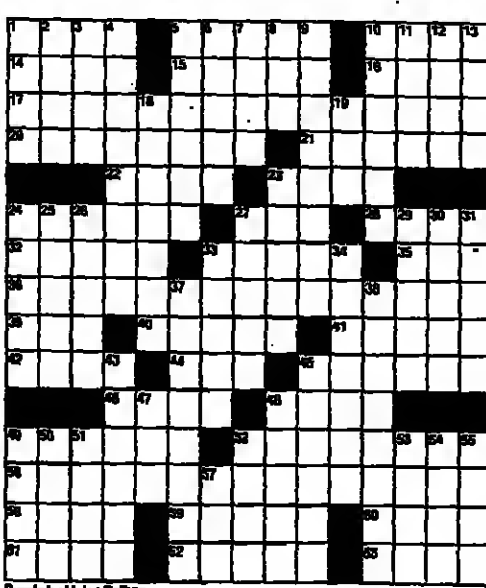
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Castoff from an ice shelf
- 5 Kind of pad
- 10 N.B.A. M.V.P., 1994-95
- 14 United Steelworkers leader I.W. —
- 15 McGwire blast
- 16 Fad item of 1981
- 17 Basketball's Archibald injured the Daisi Lama, palindromically
- 20 Ingratulated
- 21 Where many changes take place (Ain't you hot stuff?)
- 22 Sci. course
- 23 Exceedingly
- 24 Soprano Mana
- 25 Whiff
- 26 Subsidies
- 27 Disgrace
- 28 Polio
- 29 Coach
- 30 Coach
- 31 Coach
- 32 Assass noters dressed in gray, palindromically
- 33 Sphere
- 34 Business types
- 40 Small drum
- 41 Discouraged by
- 42 Dam site
- 43 "Well, —" (Ain't you hot stuff?)
- 44 Control spot
- 45 Shiny on top?
- 46 Pioneered at the poles
- 47 Petty cash in London
- 48 "What a shame your footwear is missing, palindromically"
- 49 Vampire's hideout
- 50 Measure
- 51 Track event
- 52 Mind
- 53 Finished
- 54 "For heaven's —"

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- 1 Deadly poison
- 2 Israel's Abba
- 3 No longer working: Abbv.
- 4 Happy chorus?
- 5 English counties
- 6 Certain carving
- 7 "Diary of —" Housewife
- 8 Caught up with
- 9 Bargain hunter's delight
- 10 "So long"
- 11 Lol
- 12 Glenroy hero Jack
- 13 Spanish woman
- 14 Popular vacation locale
- 15 Ade. c.g.
- 22 Annals
- 23 Computer language
- 24 Love to death
- 25 They branch out
- 26 Word with hot or home
- 27 Dear deer
- 28 The Brady kids, a.g.
- 29 Tel Aviv native
- 30 Expression
- 31 Tree with white flowers
- 32 Lincoln's supposed fiancée Ann —
- 33 Write-offs, perhaps
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- 35 "The Eagle has —"
- 36 Sched. letters
- 37 Eau
- 38 Palindromic comics dog
- 39 Palindromic nifty
- 40 Togo's capital
- 41 Dropping sound
- 42 Asa's mistress
- 43 One who's home on the range?
- 44 Palindromic suffix
- 45 Bond's Fleming



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FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION

Read THE MONEY REPORT every Saturday in the IHT.

Solution to Puzzle of March 16

TRAP PATON POOR
RIGA RHODA ERMA
ICESQUARES GRIN
MARAJD TRAWLING
OJEM RENIE
METED AIRSAG
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EUROPE

'The Moment of Truth' Is Near, Serbs Are Told

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — Talks aimed at ending fighting in the Serbian province of Kosovo approached impasse Tuesday, with Serbian negotiators refusing to accept a NATO peacekeeping force and insisting on extensive changes to an autonomy agreement that they had accepted last month.

"We shall sign the political agreement if they accept our suggestions," said Milan Milutinovic, the Serbian president, on emerging Tuesday afternoon from the French conference center where the talks had resumed Monday, a former hotel that was the German occupation headquarters during World War II.

But international mediators rejected any substantive changes. Foreign Minister Robert Vredine of France, co-chairing the talks with Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain, accused the Serbs of backtracking and warned: "The

moment of truth is not far away."

The NATO allies have threatened to bomb Serb military targets if President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, Serbia's real leader, accepts the agreement. The Kosovo Albanian delegation to the talks said Monday it was prepared to sign the accord as negotiated in the first phase of the talks last month in the French castle of Rambouillet.

Though the Albanians reacted warily when the international mediators said they were willing to make "technical adjustments" to the agreement to get the Serbs to sign, and though some Albanian commanders in Kosovo are threatening to keep fighting for independence, the main problem here is now the Serbs.

"They are today going back on certain aspects they appeared to have accepted at the end of the Rambouillet negotiations, and they still totally refuse civil and above all military guarantees on the ground," Mr. Vredine said of the Serb side in a report to the French Parliament Tuesday afternoon.

Another official close to the talks said the Serbs had demanded changes in up to 70 percent of the agreement, which would provide political autonomy to the largely ethnic Albanian majority population of Kosovo and commit up to 28,000 NATO peacekeepers for a three-year transition period. Alliance officials discussed peacekeeping arrangements with the Albanian delegates Tuesday morning.

"We will come back and continue trying to get engagement going Wednesday," said Philip Reeker, the chief spokesman for the talks.

The negotiators, with the full agreement of the contact group, have reminded the Serb delegation and Mr. Milutinovic that only technical adjustments could be considered, and that the purpose of this meeting is simply to discuss implementation," he said.

But the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia, the six "Contact Group" countries that convened the talks, have showed signs of disunity this week on the peacekeeping force, which would be largely European and commanded by a British general, with 4,000 U.S. troops in a backup role.

The five Western countries, all NATO allies, have insisted that no settlement would mean anything without armed peacekeepers to enforce it. But French officials have indicated that the peacekeepers might not necessarily have to be an integral part of NATO, and Russian officials in Brussels have said Russian soldiers would only participate if a Russian general shared command.

According to an official who had seen the Serb proposals, Mr. Milosevic would not accept provisions allowing the ethnic Albanians to form their own police force from former independence fighters.

Nor would the Serb proposals accept the draft's guarantee of a return to their original homes of the more than 200,000 people displaced by a year of violent clashes, this official said, and it would eliminate any possibility for the international criminal tribunal in The Hague to investigate war crimes.

"Paradoxically, their position could solidify the contact group," an official said. "Nobody can say the Serbs are being reasonable and just want minor changes."

Yugoslav Tanks Enter Kosovo

The Yugoslav Army moved at least eight M-84 battle tanks into Kosovo on Tuesday, the first time Belgrade has sent the modern armored weapon to the region since last October, at least, Reuters reported from Pristina, Yugoslavia.

Seven of the M-84s, an advanced Yugoslav-developed variant of the former Soviet T-72 battle tank, arrived by train in the northern Kosovo town of Mitrovica on Tuesday from elsewhere in Serbia, international peace monitors said. "This is new," a press officer with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said. "We've not seen this type of tank in Kosovo in the lifetime of our mission."



Riot policemen arresting a female student near Istanbul University on Tuesday. About 100 students who had gathered to honor leftists killed in a 1978 bombing were detained as security was tightened citywide.

State of Alert in Istanbul

Security Stepped Up After Terrorist Attacks

ISTANBUL — Authorities blamed Kurdish rebels for the recent wave of terrorist attacks against civilians and declared a state of alert in Istanbul on Tuesday.

Extra police vehicles were stationed near tourist sites, including the Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque and the Grand Bazaar, and security checks at the entrance to the sites were tightened.

After days of investigation, the local governor, Erol Cakir, blamed rebels angry over the capture last month of the Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan for the string of recent attacks.

Mr. Cakir ordered a range of new security measures, including new metal detectors for stores, shopping malls, factories, hotels, business centers, cafes, bars, restaurants, transportation facilities, stadiums and parking lots.

Managers of large public venues were ordered to hire extra security guards and ensure adequate fire escapes and exits.

"We have to remain calm and take necessary measures with care," the governor told a news conference.

The deadliest of the recent attacks was a firebombing Saturday that killed 13 people in an Istanbul department store which did not have fire escapes.

On Monday, Mr. Ocalan's Kurdistan Workers Party, which has been fighting

for autonomy since 1984, declared the entire country a war zone and threatened to attack tourist resorts.

Several Western countries, including the United States, have issued travel advisories for their citizens.

Apart from the store firebombing, 45 people have been wounded in 300 attacks, mostly firebombings of parked vehicles, over the past month in Istanbul, Mr. Cakir said.

On Tuesday, about 1,000 policemen were stationed outside a downtown university, and 100 leftist demonstrators were rounded up as they gathered to commemorate the killing of seven leftist students 21 years ago in a bombing.

Special Parliament Session

Parliament reopened in Ankara on Tuesday for an extraordinary session summoned by the Islamist opposition and dissenting deputies who aim to delay April elections, Reuters reported.

The Islamists are likely to push for the lifting of sedition laws under which senior members of their party have been tried.

The disgruntled deputies split from their party ranks after being excluded from party lists for the April 18 elections, transforming the parliamentary arithmetic that brought Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit to power with a mandate to govern until elections.

Russians Give Arms Treaty Another Shot

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Days before heading to Washington for talks on refinancing Russia's debt to the West, Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov publicly appealed to the lower house of Parliament on Tuesday to ratify the long-delayed START-2 strategic arms treaty.

At the same time, leading members of the State Duma took a procedural step toward bringing the treaty to the floor by submitting draft legislation to President Boris Yeltsin. The next step is for Mr. Yeltsin to scrutinize the draft and, if he approves, send it back for consideration.

The renewed interest in the treaty — signed by Presidents George Bush and Mr. Yeltsin in 1993, ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1996 but languishing in the Duma for years — appeared to be a prelude to Mr. Primakov's visit to Washington for talks with the Clinton administration and the International Monetary Fund.

Although Mr. Primakov has said the fate of the treaty is not linked to Western financial aid, his appearance on television Tuesday night, along with one of Russia's top missile designers and a military leader, seemed designed to push the treaty toward ratification.

Mr. Primakov leaves Sunday for Washington, where he is seeking financial assistance to roll over Russia's \$4.8 billion debt to the IMF.

Gennadi Seleznev, the speaker of the lower house, told reporters that debates on the treaty could begin before Mr. Primakov's departure.

Such predictions, however, have often been dashed. The START-2 treaty would reduce both U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals to 3,000 to 3,500 warheads each; the countries have agreed that, after ratification, they will immediately begin negotiating a START-3 treaty toward a goal of 2,000 to 2,500 warheads each.

The draft bill sent to Mr. Yeltsin on Tuesday also stipulates that the treaty would be invalidated if the United States pulled out of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty or deployed nuclear weapons on the territory of the former Soviet bloc countries that join NATO.

Three former Warsaw Pact satellites — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic — became full members of the Western alliance Friday.

Mr. Yeltsin's office expressed relief that the Duma had finally shown some movement on the treaty.

As Charges Are Dropped, Italy Asks Why

The Associated Press

ROME — Italians appeared resigned Tuesday to the prospect that an American pilot will face severe consequences for the ski gondola accident that claimed 20 lives last year, after most charges against a U.S. Marine crewman were dropped.

Military officials in North Carolina announced Monday that, in view of the court-martial acquittal of the pilot earlier in the month, it was "unreasonable" to go ahead with charges of involuntary manslaughter and negligent homicide against the navigator of the low-flying jet, which sliced a gondola cable last year at an Italian ski resort.

The cable car was sent slamming into Mount Cermis, killing all aboard.

An Italian Defense Ministry official, Massimo Brutti, said in a radio interview that he had expected the Marines to drop the charges. But "someone has to be responsible," Mr. Brutti said. "We will wait for the investigation to end and for those responsible to be pursued."

"Cermis, case closed," read the front-page headline in the daily La Repubblica over its account from the United States, which began: "For American military justice, the tragedy of Cermis doesn't have any guilty parties."

RAI state radio said with the latest development the cable car affair was "growing ever more shameful."

"There are no longer any guilty for Cermis," said the leftist daily Unità.

At this point, only lesser charges, related to accusations of obstruction of justice, are left standing against both the pilot and the navigator.

On March 4, Italians criticized the pilot's acquittal on 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter.

Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema, who discussed the acquittal with President Bill Clinton in Washington, called the decision "shameful," and warned that the NATO treaty governing the presence of U.S. bases in Italy would be reviewed if no one was found guilty and punished for the cable car crash.

Italian prosecutors are still investigating the conduct of Italian military officials in connection with the tragedy.

Airmen Face 2nd Court-Martial

Matthew L. Wald of The New York Times reported earlier:

While the Marine Corps dropped charges of manslaughter and homicide against the pilot and navigator, it will court-martial them on charges of obstruction of justice.

The pilot, Captain Richard Ashby, 31, had testified at his earlier court-martial trial that he lent his home video camera to the navigator, Captain Joseph Schweitzer, who used it to tape an early portion of the flight, before their jet severed the cable of a gondola car at Mount Cermis.

Ulster Seeks FBI Aid on Slain Lawyer

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — The Northern Ireland police chief said Tuesday that an independent police official from the British mainland and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States would investigate whether there was police collusion in the killing on Monday of a prominent Roman Catholic human rights lawyer.

The lawyer, Rosemary Nelson, 40, was killed in Lurgan, about 30 miles (about 50 kilometers) southwest of Belfast, by a car bomb placed by a Protestant splinter group, the Red Hand Defenders. The group is dedicated to destroying the peace agreement approved 10 months ago to end 30 years of sectarian violence

in the British province.

The overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republican Army and the main Protestant paramilitary groups have been holding a cease-fire while their political representatives try to make the agreement final by this Easter. Their work has been stalled by a dispute over disarmament of the paramilitary groups, particularly the IRA.

The chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Ronnie Flanagan, said on Irish national radio that the police chief David Phillips, of Kent County, England, and investigators from the FBI would work on the case, including allegations that the Northern Ireland police had themselves threatened Ms. Nelson.

"There is no evidence to substantiate collusion," Mr. Flanagan said. "There

is no doubt about the professionalism" of the northern police force. Officials of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, responded immediately that one British policeman could not be trusted to investigate honestly the operations of another. They did not mention the FBI, nor did Mr. Flanagan give details about the size of the American unit he expected to visit the North.

After the killing in the town of Lurgan, west of Belfast, there were disorders in Catholic areas. But the North was quiet Tuesday and political officials and the police said it did not appear that there would be more violent reaction.

Ms. Nelson was a leading advocate of Catholics accused of terrorist offenses by the British government. Most of them have been released.

BRIEFLY

12 in Holland Die From Legionnaires'

AMSTERDAM — An outbreak of lethal Legionnaires' disease at a Dutch flower show claimed the life of three more victims Tuesday, raising the death toll to 12, the health ministry said.

At least 33 other people were infected with the pneumonia-like illness while visiting an annual flower event in Bovenkarspel, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) north of Amsterdam, the ministry said in a statement.

Health officials said autopsies confirmed that all 12 victims died from the bacterial infection, which is spread through droplets of contaminated water. (AP)

Spain Doubts ETA Really Seeks Peace

MADRID — Six months after the Basque separatist group, ETA, announced a cease-fire, the Spanish government voiced fresh doubts Tuesday about whether the guerrillas were serious about seeking a lasting peace.

Spanish officials expressed satisfaction that ETA had stopped killing but said an intensifying campaign of firebombings and threats by rebel supporters was making it all but impossible to begin a genuine peace process.

"There is a truce in effect, but there is no authentic search for peace" by ETA and its allies, Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja told Radio SER. (Reuters)

Citizenship Law Advances in Bonn

BONN — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's cabinet approved a modernization of Germany's 1913 citizenship law Tuesday, hoping to end weeks of debate about the integration of foreign residents.

The bill would give automatic German citizenship for the first time to children born to foreign residents. (AP)

BRIEFLY

U.S. Searches for Crash Victims

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — U.S. Coast Guard crews worked Tuesday to recover the bodies of 13 people who perished in a UN helicopter crash in the mountainous terrain south of Port-au-Prince.

The helicopter, carrying six Argentines, six Russians, and one American, crashed Sunday night.

The American was identified as retired Brigadier General Errol Van Eaton of the Oregon-based International Charter Inc., which loaned two Russian helicopters to the United Nations for its mission in Haiti. (Reuters)

Clinton Calls on Cuba to Free 4

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has denounced Cuba for giving jail sentences to four well-known dissidents and appealed for their immediate release.

In a brief written statement, Mr. Clinton said he was "deeply disappointed" that the Cuban government had sentenced the activists, convicted of inciting sedition, to prison terms. "They were tried without fair process, behind closed doors," he said. "I call on the Cuban government to release them immediately." (Reuters)

Nazi Veterans March in Latvia

RIGA, Latvia — Hundreds of Latvian Waffen SS veterans paraded in the capital Tuesday to remember their World War II fight on the Russian front, despite criticism the event was an insult to Holocaust victims.

Some 146,000 Latvians were drafted by the Nazis into a Waffen SS unit in 1943 and 1944 in a last-ditch mobilization effort.

The annual Latvian Legion march, opposed last year by Jewish groups, Russia and the West, was criticized again as glorifying defenders of the Third Reich. (Reuters)

Iraqi Hajj Plane Defies Flight Ban

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq took advantage of the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca to violate United Nations sanctions Tuesday by flying 110 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

An Iraqi cargo plane took off from the Rasheed air base, south of Baghdad, and landed a few hours later in Jidda, the Saudi entry point for pilgrims going to Mecca.

"We have not contacted anybody for approval," Rabi Mohammed, director-general of Iraqi Airways, told the official press agency, INA.

UN sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait bar direct flights to and from Iraq. Various requests by Baghdad for exemptions from the ban have been denied.

Iraq will fly at least two more plane-loads of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia during the hajj this year, said Abdul Munim Ahmed Saleh, minister of endowment and religious affairs, who was aboard the flight Tuesday.

The government was clearly proud of the flight — the second time in two years it has broken UN sanctions for the hajj. Baghdad invited foreign reporters and television crews to cover the takeoff. State-run radio and television interrupted programming to say that the first batch of Iraqi pilgrims had left for Mecca.

Many of the 110 pilgrims, who were mostly elderly people and included 35 women, knelt down on the tarmac to pray before boarding the flight.

The passengers sat facing each other on benches fixed to the sides of the Russian-made Il-76 plane.

"We get into this plane and our message is that the world should listen to us and understand our problem," said a passenger, Hassan Othman, 62.

In April 1997, Iraq flew 104 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, also on an Il-76. That plane returned the same day. The UN Security Council responded to that flight by issuing a mild statement that called on Baghdad to obtain permission for such flights in the future.

Only a few Iraqis can afford to pay the \$1,500 minimum cost of performing the pilgrimage to Mecca. About 4,000 are scheduled to make the trip this year, and most of them will travel overland by bus.

U.S. Planes Bomb Iraqi Artillery Sites in North

Reuters

ISTANBUL — U.S. planes bombed Iraqi artillery sites in the northern no-flight zone Tuesday after having been tracked by Iraqi radar, a spokesman at the jets' base in southern Turkey said.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said Western planes attacked civilian and military sites in the north of Iraq, but that Iraqi air defenses engaged in fighting with the attacking planes and forced them to flee.

The spokesman in Turkey said U.S. F-15B

Strike Eagle planes dropped GBU-12 laser-guided bombs in self-defense on several anti-aircraft artillery sites northwest of Mosul.

Such strikes have become regular since December when Baghdad began actively opposing U.S. and British jets which patrol the Western-imposed no-flight zones in the north and south of Iraq.

Iraq said one civilian was injured in a Western attack Monday on a site in the southern no-flight zone. U.S. and British authorities have repeatedly denied attacking civilian targets.



PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION

Due to delays which are experienced in the development of its new power plant in Crete Island, at location Atherinolakos, P.P.C. anticipates that there will be eventual peak power shortages in the Island during the summer periods (June to September) of the years 2000 and 2001, in the range of 50-60 MW.

To avoid recurring to supply interruptions of its consumers during the hours of maximum demand, P.P.C. wishes to examine the possibility of purchasing this peak electric energy from suppliers that can deliver it reliably in the Crete Island network. Such suppliers can be owners of large mounted power plants having a deliverable reliable capacity of at least 60 MW, at 50 Hz. Electric energy will be delivered to the 150 kV network of the Island through step-up power transformer(s) belonging also within the scope of the supplier.

P.P.C. will be willing to commit itself to the purchase of all the energy to be delivered by the supplier to be selected for a period of not exceeding 720 hrs per year, i.e. for an average of 6 hrs with two start-stops per day over the period from June 1st to September 30th. For this deliverable amount of energy interested suppliers will be required to accept a compensation covering all of their fixed and variable expenses plus profit.

Moreover, in case P.P.C. wishes, it may call the supplier to deliver additional to the aforementioned committed value of electric energy over the same period of June 1st to September 30th of each of the two years. For the additional electric energy the supplier will be only compensated for his variable costs (fuel, etc.) plus profit.

Interested suppliers that can deliver such peak electric energy by means of large mounted power plants, or other means, are kindly requested to express their interest submitting to P.P.C. not later than May 31st, 1999 all available information that will enable P.P.C. to evaluate the potential of such a peak electric energy supply Contract, in the following address:

Public Power Corporation
30 Chaikokandylis Street
GR - 104 32 Athens
To the attention of: Mr. G. Katranas

It is further noted that within the suppliers responsibilities falls the selection of the specific point(s) of the generating station connection to the 150 kV Crete Network as well as all the procedures for procuring the necessary permits from the Greek Authorities. P.P.C. will support the supplier in pursuing all relevant actions.

INTERNATIONAL

Trademark Traits Bring Cresson's Career to Close

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Taking up a sought-after appointment on the European Commission in Brussels four years ago, Edith Cresson seemed to put a safe distance between herself and her image from early in the decade as a headstrong politician with a knack for insulting remarks, including slurs against Britain and Japan when she was France's first female prime minister.

EU: Commission Resigns

Continued from Page 1

Several leaders welcomed the commission's resignation as a chance to reform European institutions, and "begin with a clean slate," as Prime Minister Wim Kok of the Netherlands put it.

Mr. Santer said neither he nor any of the commissioners had personally benefited from fraud or corruption, and he bitterly criticized the 144-page report. He said it had discredited four years of hard work under his command, and had ignored efforts he had made to reform the commission and root out corruption.

He said the report had raked over old facts and then had added a political assessment that did not conform with those facts.

But that assessment was scathing. It drew a picture of a commission utterly out of touch and out of control. Of the commissioners, who are responsible for initiating EU legislation and safeguarding observance of EU treaties, the report said it had become difficult to "find anyone who has even the slightest sense of responsibility."

The committee of experts had kept its investigations a close secret, and the conclusion came as a shattering surprise to the commission, who spent hours debating their reaction before deciding to hand in their resignations.

Until recently, Mr. Santer was reported to have told the committee, which was set up in January with the European parliament, would exonerate the commission from the charges of graft, corruption and crookedness that have hung over it since long before he took office. But it did the opposite, and Mr. Santer said the commission was left with no choice but to comply with his earlier promise that the leadership would "assume the consequences" of a negative report.

Never before has even one commissioner had to step down.

Pauline Green, the leader of the powerful Socialist group in the Parliament, said the commission had done "the honorable thing," and that in stepping down it was finally acting with "some dignity and integrity."

Mr. Kinock, the commissioner in charge of transport, said "We made a clean break," and said the commissioners had mitigated the damage that would have occurred had the commission decided to soldier on in the face of parliamentary opposition and public hostility.

There was clearly some resistance to the decision to resign en masse, Karel van Miert, the Belgian commissioner in charge of anti-trust policy, said. "They act as if everything here went wrong," adding, "the departments that worked well have not been discussed or commissioners contacted so it is unfair to pretend that everything here just derailed, that is wrong."

Mr. Santer described himself as "whiter than white," and when asked if he had done anything with which he could reproach himself, he replied angrily, "perhaps to resign."

The report played the commission for lack of accountability, lack of openness and a strategy of cover-up. It acknowledged that the commission had been given many new challenges to deal with in recent years, but had not taken the correct political steps to ensure it had adequate resources to handle these programs. Instead, it handed many of them over to outside contractors and then failed to supervise them properly.

The report was a shattering critique of Mr. Santer. It said he had allowed a "state within a state" to develop in the commission's security service, for which he was personally responsible. Security officials, mostly recruited from the Belgian police force, arranged "small favors" for senior commission staffers, such as obtaining the cancellation of police fines for parking offenses and drunken driving, the committee said.

COMMISSION: No Easy Fixes in View to Fill Vacuum at the Top

Continued from Page 1

for a lack of political control, and it said it had become difficult to find anyone at the commission who would accept responsibility for anything.

The commission somewhat contracted that by assuming responsibility for the contents of the report and stepping down, even though Mr. Santer said he disagreed with it absolutely.

After the Santer experience, governments appear to be looking for someone with a bit more pizzazz to take Europe on its next adventure — its enlargement from 15 to as many as 26 members.

A former Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, has often been mentioned as the kind of person who would fit the bill.

The question is whether the candidate would be chosen under the old rules or the new rules that will come into place with the ratification of the Amsterdam Treaty. The French senate on Tuesday authorized the government to ratify the treaty. France would be the last country to do so.

But her reputation for crookedness and arrogance, which worsened her unpopularity during 10 months in office, surfaced again Monday in revelations about her record in Brussels that put Mrs. Cresson, 65, at the center of the commission's collective resignation.

Her offenses may have been little worse than those of others in a commission thought to be mediocre in performance, but Mrs. Cresson's salty tongue and spiky reputation may have done her damage, as they did when she was a politician in France. A militant Socialist who shared President Francois Mitterrand's habit of defying conventional practice and promoting personal friends to high positions regardless of their professional skills, Mrs. Cresson was named prime minister in 1991 and plummeted to record lows in popularity.

She had to contend with male resentment, coupled with jealousy at the success of a woman who was a perhaps a feminist but who also made no secret of her friendships with male Socialist leaders, including Mr. Mitterrand. When she chose an outsider, Abel Farnoux, as an industrial adviser and special aide with wide-ranging powers, bureaucratic suspicion and resistance further undermined her authority over the French government.

Her contempt for political tact surfaced in a string of public gaffes as prime minister, including an occasion when she announced that she did not care about the ups and downs of the French stock market. She publicly ascribed Japan's economic success to the "antique" character of the Japanese. And she said that one out of four Englishmen and Americans must be homosexuals because they failed to ogle her in the street.

Named to the commission in 1994 by Mr. Mitterrand shortly before the end of his presidency, Mrs. Cresson was forced from the job Tuesday when a panel's report said that she was guilty of "favoritism" in appointing a friend to a commission position as an AIDS expert, a job for which the dentist had little evident qualification but which paid well — apparently for little or no work.

While none of the commissioners was accused of personal enrichment, the report named Mrs. Cresson as one of several who mismanaged the programs they were overseeing. Pointedly, it accused her of "failing to respond to know, serious and continuing irregularities over several years."

Her attitude antagonized investigators and activists in the European Parliament so strongly that Mrs. Cresson seems to have personally helped even the commission to resign or be dismissed by a no-confidence vote in the Parliament.

"I have no regrets," Mrs. Cresson said Tuesday, blaming political naivete in the commission for the events.

Despite her defiance, Mrs. Cresson has apparently ended her political career.

Even before the scandal, she had become a lightning rod for criticism in Brussels. Fellow commissioners were often privately critical of her, and any criticism of her got extensive coverage in London newspapers.

A Paris daily, *Liberation*, disclosed her potential problems with dubious hiring practices last year when its reporters noticed a fellow journalist in her staff seemed a phantom position on her staff.

Mrs. Cresson stonewalled queries, triggering a wider campaign for explanations.

Her disgrace in Brussels reignited

vehemence against Mrs. Cresson in France, with the media Tuesday blaming her for discrediting the commission.



SHAKE ON IT — From left, Prime Minister Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic, Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek of Poland, Secretary-General Javier Solana of NATO and Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary at a Brussels ceremony Tuesday welcoming the nations into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Taking the West Bank, Hill by Hill

By Deborah Sontag
New York Times Service

ELI, West Bank — From this entrenched Jewish settlement on a bluff above the Palestinian territories, the vista is dotted for miles around with what the Israelis call farms on the ground. Almost every hilltop bears a scattering of mobile homes, evidence of the ongoing and willful expansion of the Jewish presence in the West Bank.

The hills are truly alive with the sound of hammers, buzz saws and bulldozers as Israelis — with the manual help of Palestinian workers — dig into the land. They aim to sink their roots as deeply as possible in the hope that the acres they occupy now will never be turned over to the Palestinian Authority.

"When they built the hill, we climbed on up," said Ora Levinstein, 17, whose family moved from Eli, which is almost suburban, into a tin shack on a barren hillside nearby. "We felt like pioneers."

"At first it was horrible — no water, no electricity. But now we have our trailers, and it's gorgeous. Look at this view! At night you see all the land of Israel. What, we should let the Arabs have it?"

For months, Palestinian leaders have voiced persistent criticism about the growth of Jewish settlement communities in the West Bank, and particularly in the stretch of rocky hills between the Palestinian cities of Ramallah and Nablus. In the last few days, American diplomats have turned up the pressure on Israel to contain the expansion, in a war of words played out through the media.

Last weekend Dennis Ross, the Middle East peace envoy, in an unusual public rebuke, called increased settlement activity "very destructive to the pursuit of peace."

On Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, defying the American criticism, visited a West Bank settlement, vowing, "We want it to be bigger." And Tuesday, the American Embassy in Tel Aviv issued a pointed response: "We have been troubled by Israel's expansion of existing settlements well beyond their periphery."

The embassy statement was released as Mr. Ross was flying to Madrid to see Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in a

meeting hastily scheduled at the last minute. Mr. Ross was expected to press Mr. Arafat to delay a declaration of statehood beyond May 4, and some Palestinian officials said they believed that the American criticism of Israel was timed to make Mr. Arafat more receptive.

The most recent Israeli-Palestinian peace memorandum, negotiated at the Wye Plantation in Maryland last fall, prohibits both sides from taking unilateral actions to jeopardize their understanding. The Americans, who brokered the agreement, see both a May 4 statehood declaration by Mr. Arafat and continued settlement expansion by Israel as unilateral acts that violate the accord.

The Israelis contend that they are ex-

Settlement — increasing by about 9 percent a year — can be "very destructive to the pursuit of peace."

panding settlements based on the natural growth of the 140 communities; they say that the settlements are theirs to expand until their future is decided in the final status negotiations, which have not yet begun. Indeed, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon counseled the settlers last fall to make haste by "grabbing hilltops" before land was turned over to the Palestinians.

But the Americans and the Palestinians contend that the expansion is unfairly carving out new Jewish communities.

"These activities prejudice and predetermine issues that were to be reserved for permanent status negotiations by changing realities on the ground," said Larry Schwartz, the U.S. Embassy spokesman.

The American Embassy closely monitors settlement activity, which has long been a bone of contention between the Americans and the Israelis. Officials there would not release their data.

But Israeli and American peace groups who also monitor the West Bank claim that 16 new settlements have arisen in the last five months, since the Wye accord was signed in a ceremony at the White House. The trailer communities, blocks of white rectangles atop the highest hills, are as conspicuous as the banks of new house frames that stand beside the established communities.

"The system is very simple," said Mossi Raz, the general director of Peace Now in Israel. "The settlers go to a hill, most of the time next to the settlement where they live and in some cases outside the boundaries. They put up some trailers. They build a road to the place."

And nobody does anything about it, not the police, not the army."

For the last five years, the settler population has grown at a rate of about 9 percent a year to 170,000 Jews living amid Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Peace Now said the vacancy rate in the settlements hovers around 8 percent or 9 percent, negating the argument that there is need to expand.

But Pinchas Wallerstein, the chairman of the Yesha Council, the umbrella settlers' group, said it is turnover. He also said he hoped to see a greater spurt at the end of this school year.

"I hope it will increase by 11 or 12 percent this year," he said.

"But I don't know that there are a lot of people who will be willing to pay \$100,000 for a house in the middle of an area where the political situation is unstable. I can give them a narrow caravan, but if they want to live in a permanent house, they have to pay for it."

Mr. Wallerstein discounted most of the new hilltop communities.

"They are not expansion," he said. "They are very young fellows or families who stay there to make a point, but the living conditions are too difficult. There is growth in the settlements, but it is not in the hills."

He pointed to a six-month-old outpost of four families between Eli and Shilo, in an area at the dead center of the West Bank that is experiencing the greatest growth.

Eli is 14 years old and home to 400 families, both religious and secular, about 20 percent of whom are new immigrants. A sign at the foot of the hill that leads there promises houses "with cable!"

The municipal head, Lior Shitl, boasts of the quick commute to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

"There are those who come here for quality of life, and those who come for that plus ideology," he said. "Both ways, we grow. We continue to build. This government comes and this government goes, and nothing changes but what sits on the ground."

Drivers Angry At Fuel Rise Bring Ecuador To a Standstill

The Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador — Angry bus drivers joined striking taxi drivers Tuesday, barricading streets and bringing traffic to a standstill across the country in an effort to force the government to revoke a gas price increase.

In a harsh austerity package announced last week, President Jamil Mahuad proposed spending cuts, price rises and tax increases he says are needed to rescue this indebted Andean nation from its worst economic crisis in decades.

Commuters waited fruitlessly at bus stops Tuesday while others crossed barricades of yellow taxis, burning tires and club-wielding drivers to get to work.

The government, empowered by a 60-day state of emergency, said it would clear the barricades. Soldiers armed with automatic weapons patrolled the streets of major cities Tuesday.

Government representatives met Monday with strike leaders and opposition politicians, but failed to find a solution to the standoff. Spokesmen said they would continue speaking.

Many of the reforms, especially tax increases and laws to speed up privatizations, must be approved by Congress, where Mr. Mahuad's centrist Popular Democracy Party lacks a majority. Congress has 30 days to rule on the measures.

But Mr. Mahuad's hopes of passing the reforms dimmed when the powerful conservative Social Christian Party, which had supported him on previous measures, called the reforms "inhuman" and vowed to block the tax increases.

The economic crisis in Ecuador was set off by last year's El Niño floods, which caused \$2.6 billion in damage, and low world prices for oil, the main export.

To protect banks from a run on deposits, Mr. Mahuad ordered them to shut last week and froze all dollar savings accounts. The banks reopened Monday, with anxious customers lining up for hours to withdraw what they could.

World Bank Offers Support

The World Bank offered "direct support" Tuesday for the government in efforts to overcome Ecuador's economic crisis, *Agence France-Presse* reported from Washington.

The president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, said, "The current economic developments in Ecuador are a source of great concern to us at the World Bank as well as to the entire international community."

Officials from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Inter-American Development Bank were in Ecuador to help with a rescue package.

POLL: Gore's Image Trouble

Continued from Page 1

tion on Mr. Gore and one out of five about the Texas governor to know who should be president.

Mr. Gore's aides said he is just setting out to emerge from the large shadow Mr. Clinton casts and said they were confident he could establish the leadership profile people seek in a president.

But Gerry Chervinsky, an independent pollster in Boston who has done much work in the leadoff primary state of New Hampshire, said, "There is trustworthiness. He is a solid player. But there's nothing inspirational about the guy. I don't see Gore connecting."

While six out of 10 of those polled say they approve of the job Mr. Gore is doing as vice president, that does not translate into support for the top post. Nearly four out of 10 of those who approve of Mr. Gore as vice president — 38 percent — say they would vote for Mr. Bush.

At this early stage of the process, with potential Republican challengers such as Mr. Bush and Mrs. Dole having formed exploratory committees but not formal declarations of candidacy, the images of the candidates are only vaguely formed and are subject to change.

"Despite his career and his high profile within the administration," an aide said, "the vice president is a blank slate. When he appears as a presidential candidate, people will begin to understand what he's about."

Clinton Seeks Relief Of Africans' Debt

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton proposed Tuesday to expand debt relief for impoverished African nations, saying the United States was firmly committed to building a new relationship with the continent that would "lower the hurdles left by past mistakes."

One year after his visit to Africa, Mr. Clinton sought to assure African government ministers that he was working to fulfill the promises he made there by declaring a U.S. commitment to Africa "for the long haul" and offering a plan to forgive an extra \$70 billion in debt owed by the most heavily indebted, poor nations.

"For too much of this century, the relationship between the United States and Africa was plagued by indifference on our part," Mr. Clinton said.

NORTH KOREA: Assent to Inspections

Continued from Page 1

The new agreement will allow a team of U.S. inspectors to visit the site in May. Another visit would be scheduled a year later. Subsequent visits would be arranged "when requested," Mr. Rubin said.

Mr. Rubin was asked at a press briefing whether the agreement Monday vindicated an administration policy of engagement rather than the tough line advocated by some in Congress, who favor dropping the 1994 accord under which North Korea agreed to halt its nuclear weapons program in exchange for U.S. cooperation and assistance with alternative energy supplies.

Discarding that agreement, Mr. Rubin said, would have deprived the United States of a "lever by which to prevent them from developing nuclear weapons," and a "unique and unprecedented" ability to work with Pyongyang to resolve disputes such as that over the underground site.

It was unclear what pressure China,

North Korea's closest ally, might have exerted on the isolated Pyongyang government.

The agreement comes at a time, however, when U.S.-Chinese relations have been strained by disputes on human rights abuses in China and trade issues. They also have been taxed by U.S. consideration of extending a missile-defense program to parts of Asia.

The Clinton administration has insisted that engagement is the best approach with both China and North Korea.

Critics in Congress, however, say the United States is providing food and support to a rigid Stalinist government that bears the primary responsibility for its people's suffering, and which some suspect has defied the 1994 agreement.

A missile test by North Korea in August — it fired a missile that flew over Japan — heightened concerns in Washington, Tokyo, and Taipei. That test helped build support in Congress for the idea of a national missile-defense system, possibly to be extended to U.S. friends in Northwest Asia.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

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A Push for the Irish

The parties to the Northern Ireland dispute have taken to descending on Washington for a political booster shot on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. It is a tribute to their confidence in the United States as a mediator and to Bill Clinton personally.

This time the visiting parties seek help to untie the tight knot of de-commissioning, or disarmament, the outlaw militias of the two sides in Northern Ireland, especially the Catholic minority's Irish Republican Army.

The conveyance of this issue to Washington is being widely depicted as the "last chance" to save the nearly year-old Good Friday peace agreement. It is being said, in order to describe the situation and to stir the two sides to loosen up, that there is no Plan B.

Perhaps there is no Plan B in the sense of a well-wrought comprehensive alternative to end three decades of bloody sectarian conflict. But there are various ways to address the unquestionably overwhelming interest that the two sides have in making the Good Friday agreement come alive on the ground.

The two need to open up to some of these negotiating possibilities. It is not enough for them simply to keep repeating that their respective constituencies — the Protestant majority, the Catholic minority — are already stretched to the limit and cannot be expected to make a further move.

As T.R. Reid wrote in The Wash-

ington Post on Monday, the IRA is believed to have thousands of secret caches containing hundreds of tons of weapons. Whatever the precise count, it amounts to a formidable force that would allow the IRA, if it chose, to resume military action on a broad scale. And not only the IRA. In Monday's car bombing against a prominent Catholic human rights lawyer, responsibility was claimed by a newly outlawed Protestant group.

Still, Unionists are right to demand a credible start on disarming by the IRA. If the demand is out in the literal letter of the Good Friday agreement, it is certainly in the essential spirit. It is unthinkable that one political party should go through a negotiation possessing and implicitly flourishing a private army.

But the Republicans have right on their side, too, in the other crucial regard now in play. They demand a prompt start on the actual establishment of the power-sharing arrangements that make up the core of the Good Friday pact. It is unthinkable that one political party should maintain and exploit an old monopoly of political power after a new agreement to share power has been made.

If the courage of the Northern Ireland sides is out up to their double task of dealing with disarming and power sharing, then the Clinton team can help them pick up the slack.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Washington and Chile

One of the lingering mysteries about Augusto Pinochet of Chile is whether Washington aided in the 1973 military coup that brought him to power and how much it knew of the murders and forced disappearances committed by his government. Beginning with an investigation by a Senate committee in 1975, tantalizing bits of information have emerged about failed CIA efforts to keep the Socialist Salvador Allende from becoming president in 1970, and the CIA's ties to General Pinochet's intelligence organizations. Now, if the Clinton administration carries out a well-designed plan to declassify its information on Chile, the details of America's role may be known.

The administration ordered the review because of a surge of interest in General Pinochet that developed after his indictment last year by a Spanish magistrate. The plan was released to the public at the prodding of the National Security Archive, a nongovernmental group. It directs the State, Defense and Justice departments, the CIA and the National Security Council to search their files for information on human rights abuses and terrorism in Chile, beginning with the period from 1968 to 1978. The directive asks the agencies to complete their initial release of documents by mid-May. All documents will be treated as if they were more than 25 years old, making them much easier to declassify.

The State Department has led the move toward openness, but cooperation from the Pentagon and the CIA is a question mark. The Defense Department has lagged behind other agencies in releasing documents in the past, and probably holds a trove of important information regarding Chile.

The CIA's reluctance to declassify documents on Chile in the files of its operations directorate is particularly unfortunate. The 1975 Senate investigation of CIA activities found that the agency had run numerous covert operations to keep Mr. Allende from becoming president. Declassified documents show that in 1970 President Richard Nixon instructed the CIA to organize a military coup. The Senate report also mentioned the agency's ties to the most sinister of General Pinochet's secret police organizations.

The CIA recently released crucial documents on its role in Guatemala's violence. It should now reveal the truth about all its activities in Chile.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A Sour Boxing Night

Somebody once called boxing the sweet science, but there was nothing sweet about last Saturday night's Evander Holyfield-Leonard Lewis heavyweight bout, or scientific about the collective wisdom of the three judges who called it a draw. Mr. Lewis was clearly the superior fighter for most of a dreary evening, and one judge actually awarded him the fight. A second judge called it a draw, while a third astonishingly gave it to Mr. Holyfield. The fighters will continue to share the title. The only clear winners were the promoters, who will stage a rematch in six months.

This bout was supposed to be a big shot in the arm for boxing in New York, a fight that would establish one clear champion in the heavyweight division and bring back the glory days of Madison Square Garden. When it ended the way it did, the state's leading politicians were furious and out a bit bashful about raising the possibility of fraud. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who watched the bout on television along more than a million others who paid for the privilege, called the result a "travesty" that could lead reasonable people to conclude that "someone had altered the honest judgment of the judges."

Governor George Pataki ordered an inquiry by the State Athletic Commission, while Eliot Spitzer, the state attorney general, began a separate inquiry. Mr. Spitzer suggested that the judges were guilty of "tampering or incompetence."

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Now Let's Have a Democratic Overhaul of Europe

By Jonathan Eyal

LONDON — With the resignation of the European Commission on Tuesday, the Europeans have experienced their equivalent of the Boston Tea Party. This has the potential to be the biggest democratic overhaul in Europe since the collapse of communism.

Commissioners are appointed by national governments. No doubt a game of musical chairs will preoccupy all the Union's leaders in the months to come. If this process is handled correctly, it may bring huge benefits for Europe.

Traditionally, commissioners were people who were senior in their own home states but for one reason or another had fallen foul of their national political systems and had to be rewarded with a fat international job. This is now certain to change. Governments will pay particular attention to the people they send to Brussels.

Many careers will be made there. A dual process whereby politicians start their careers in Brussels and continue them in their own countries later is essential for the democratic cohesiveness of the future Union.

Under the presidency of Jacques Delors during the 1980s, the commission acquired the functions of a government, with no political accountability but huge powers. The current debacle cuts the commission down to size, and returns this body closer to the original role for which it was conceived.

Smaller member states which depend on the commission for protection and have viewed this body as their main vehicle for influencing European events may not like the idea. But the Union's big paymasters, including Germany, are likely to be satisfied. The fiction of equality between member states will be slowly eroded, and that will make the Union a better functioning body.

The European Parliament, that toothless institution which resembled the Supreme Soviet of Communist times in Moscow, has become a real power. Expect heavy participation in the voting for the new Parliament in

June, and a new democracy flourishing in Brussels. The process may not be neat, but the trend is unmistakable. Parliamentary accountability has arrived, even in the European Union.

It is possible to argue that the resignation of the commission can slow down other reform projects in the Union, but this need not be the case. Decisions about the Common Agricultural Policy and reform of the budget belong to national governments.

The start of enlargement negotiations with the Central European states does depend on a functioning commission. But these negotiations have already been delayed (because they can start only when the other internal EU questions are resolved), and they can be conducted by the outgoing commission, which remains in office until new appointments are made.

Individual EU governments should capitalize on this crisis, for the good of all. They should reconfirm those commissioners who are beyond reproach for a transition period.

They should appoint Leon Brittan,

the senior British commissioner, as president for an interim period. This will allow Tony Blair, the British prime minister, to claim that it is Britain now which is leading the process of reforming the Union, a useful claim as he embarks on the fight to introduce the euro into Britain.

The other member states may go along with this, if only because Leon Brittan will be retiring soon. But, regardless of what happens in the next few days, it is clear that the culture of Brussels, with its opaque, French-dominated administration, collecting huge salaries and accountable only to itself, is now dead.

A new Union is being born. It will be leaner and more democratic, but also more chaotic. In short, it will represent Europe as it is, rather than the continent imagined by the graduates of the grandes écoles in France.

The writer, director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute in London, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Question and Answers: Why Does America Prosper So?

By Robert A. Levine

LOS ANGELES — Vigorous American growth is the pump that keeps the world economy from collapsing. But why is the United States doing so well?

U.S. success has been variously attributed to wise macroeconomic policy (structural flexibility) and macroeconomic policy (Alan Greenspan) and to the hangers of the American consumer.

Each of these explanations has some truth, but the more fundamental reason is that the United States is riding the current technological wave of growth, the information revolution. This is illustrated by a few statistics plucked from American and European tables.

For example, the U.S. President's Council of Economic Advisors reports that more than one-third of 1997 fixed investment by American business was for "information processing and related equipment." An astounding almost-two-thirds of the overall increase from 1991 to 1997 was similarly computed.

Reports for the rest of the world do not provide directly comparable data, but some indication of the shortfall relative to America is provided by the French statistical institute. In 1994, the per capita U.S. effort on technological research and development exceeded France's by almost half. Only Japan came close to the United States, and not very close. Germany was about at the French level, Britain significantly lower.

The information revolution is new, but it is the latest of a series of such waves that have risen and fallen since the industrial revolution.

Analysts who do not read history exclaim that we are in the throes of the greatest world change since — the last millennium? The one before that? They would be hard put to demonstrate that modern information processing is more revolutionary than the steam en-

gine; the railroad and telegraph revolution; the near simultaneous onset of electrical power, the automobile, the airplane, the radio and the movies; the post-World War II agricultural, health and television revolutions. Each of these waves rose to a crest, then fell to an economic crash. And beware, so will the information revolution.

Why is America so much higher than on the current wave than its competitors? The reasons lie in traits that define the American way of life.

The United States is a huge single market. The European Union, even before monetary union, approached the same large singularity, but the EU lacks most of the other characteristics.

The United States has a tinkering culture. Many American boys, and some girls, still grow up fixing their own cars.

The public philosophy is antithetical to dirigisme. The government does not tell American entrepreneurs what to do. French, German and Japanese governments do — when they can find entrepreneurs. The hope for Italy is that reform will kill its entrepreneurial gray economy.

The United States retains a strong tradition of social fluidity based at least in part on personal capability. The same is true of France and Japan. It is not true of Britain, which otherwise resembles America in many characteristics.

The United States is unique (with Canada) in being an immigration nation. My generation of East European-rooted Jewish kids achieved a hell of a lot. Now, although a few Americans may be going nativist, most of

us thrill to the fact that perhaps two-thirds of the high school and college students winning science and other prizes have Asian names. Many are U.S. natives. Amazingly, many others crossed the Pacific knowing no English but quickly learned the language and much more.

Politically incorrect as it may be to say so, the United States is the most anti-racist of developed nations. It still has more problems than most and has a long way to go, but it is working far harder to get there. Where are the Indian-Pakistani canons in the House of Commons, the Algerian group in the National Assembly, the Turkish caucus in the Bundestag, the Koreans in the Japanese Diet?

Finally (for this list), the much maligned American educational system turns out product adapted to the current world economy. Whether this is true for the troubled primary

and secondary educational sectors is an unanswered question. There is no question, however, that American higher education works best. It produces the information revolutionaries, and attracts them from abroad. To the benefit of the U.S. economy, many of them stay.

To be sure, U.S. advantages are for this technological wave, as recently as the 1970s, the car culture imposed a strong disadvantage during the oil crunch. Further, the downside of U.S. flexibility is growing income inequality and fraying of the safety net, factors that could tear society apart when the wave ends. What rises higher falls deeper.

But for the moment it works.

The writer, an economist and former official in the U.S. executive and legislative branches, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

To Succeed, the Entrepreneur Has to Be Able to Fail

By David Ignatius

WASHINGTON — Between visits to some of Silicon Valley's hot companies, I found myself puzzling over a question: What is it that makes the high-tech world feel so alive and bursting with energy at a time when the culture of official Washington seems so dead?

The best answer I can offer is something I heard at Cisco Systems, a wildly successful company that is building the Internet with its fast routers and switches. The comment had to do with the tech world's tolerance for risk, and for the failure that sometimes comes with it.

"If you hit five out of five, you won't do well here," explained Dan Scheinman, a Cisco vice president. "People like that aren't taking enough chances. If you hit eight out of 10, that's the Cisco way."

Washington is a city of five-out-of-five people, driven by an ingrained intolerance of failure. Any screwup, misjudgment, misstatement or inconsistency makes you instantly subject to second-guessing from members of Congress, consumer watchdogs, independent consultants and, yes, from the 20-20 hindsight brigade in the press.

This kind of atmosphere is destructive to creativity and initiative. I cannot imagine a good newspaper, for example, surviving under the kind of microscopic scrutiny that is applied to public officials.

The phrase "I made an honest mistake" is not one you hear much in Washington.

Washington is a compulsive, risk-averse, excuse-making, blame-shifting, afraid-of-falling-off-the-prestige-pole kind of town. Any mistake is a potential career-killer. Politicians are that way, obviously. No wonder they don't pass laws any more. It's

too risky. They might make a mistake; someone might object.

If you want a stunning example of what the zero-defect mentality has created, take a look at the modern CIA. They have become so worried about running afoul of lawyers and congressional oversight committees that in recent years, they have almost gone out of the spying business. Too risky.

Hold on, you say, what about President Bill Clinton? He is hardly a zero-defect guy. That is true, but the problem is that he pretends to be one. That is the Washington way. He is a flawed and immature man, in ways that become more obvious every day, but he is still trying to act as if he is perfect. Maybe the reason Americans like him so much is that they know that he knows it's really a con.

Here is an anecdote which illustrates how different the culture of Silicon Valley is. Several years ago, a man joined a Silicon Valley start-up company. He was very talented, but it wasn't the right fit. A few days after he left the company, he visited one of America's top venture capitalists. It's O.K. to fail, the venture capitalist advised. "This one didn't work out, but the next one will."

Part of what makes Silicon Valley so different is that people don't have time for finger-pointing and recrimination. The technology world is simply moving too fast.

"It's like lava, bubbling up everywhere," says Jerry Yang, 30, co-founder of Yahoo. Business success, in this environment, means staying just ahead of the lava.

Mr. Yang started Yahoo a few years ago as a quirky guide to cool sites on the World Wide Web and transformed it into a business that now has a market value of roughly \$33 billion. His personal net worth is now about \$3.6 billion, but he still doesn't have an office with a door you can close.

Instead he works out of a messy cubicle, with clothes piled to a heap on the floor and knickknacks strewn across his desk. If you looked hard, you could probably find some empty pizza boxes.

"Speed matters," says Mr. Scheinman at Cisco Systems. With technology changing so fast, successful companies are the ones that take risks on new products and get them to market fast. More careful, risk-averse companies get left in the dust.

"The fast beat the slow," says Mr. Scheinman. That is the iron law of Silicon Valley. Even a giant company like Microsoft is not powerful enough to derail the onrush of technology.

To be sure, it helps that the tech world is a culture of abundance, with lots of rewards to go around for the winners. That is part of what drives the risk-taking machine. But nearly every young tycoon in the valley has had the experience of failure, and bounced back from it to success and wealth.

Perhaps the best thing you can say about Washington is that it is slowly being infected by the spirit of Silicon Valley. Take a drive out the Dulles toll road and you will see a new world of business led by Internet companies like America Online.

These companies would not be growing so fast if they were not making mistakes along the way and learning from them.

The Washington Post.

Khmer Rouge Fun and Games

By James Pringle

PAULIN, Cambodia — When hard-line Communist regimes collapse, they seem to do so in a similar way — into a kind of gangster capitalism, with the emergence of mafia elites, red princelings and corruption.

The murderous Khmer Rouge regime is no exception.

In the end, is this what it was all for, the "pure and hard" revolution that left 1.7 million Cambodians dead? Do the torture chambers of Tuol Sleng and the killing fields of Choeung Ek ultimately come down to this?

A visit to the former Khmer Rouge headquarters at Paulin reveals that the red flag of Democratic Kampuchea has given way to the red lights of massage parlors and brothels.

This autonomous region in the hills of western Cambodia, along the Thai border, is notable now for its sleazy bars and gambling dens.

The Khmer Rouge still runs Paulin. Its thugs merely swapped Maoist-style uniforms for those of the Cambodian army, keeping their guns.

Khmer Rouge officials have built themselves gaudy gilded palaces where they live, as before, isolated from what they called the "basic strata," the people.

Paulin thrives on illegal logging and gem mining. Its streets are being torn up in the frantic search for more rubies. No tax revenues go to the Cambodian government.

The road to Paulin from Battambang is rough, the people are impoverished, the paddy fields still mined and full of

the flotsam of war. Paulin is a fiefdom of Leng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge foreign minister who received a royal pardon when he "defected" to the government in 1996.

As you enter the town, a roadside billboard depicts a pretty Khmer girl advertising a Thai-made condom. It serves the dual purpose of warning against AIDS, now widespread in Cambodia, and hinting at the squalid pleasures of this stronghold of former Khmer Rouge leaders and cadres. Illicit sex in the past, of course, brought immediate execution.

Near the Thai border, a "jungle casino" has opened. Khmer Rouge operatives rent out 40 gaming tables for haccarat and roulette to Thai businessmen.

Not far from there, two Khmer Rouge chiefs, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, are boled up on a ridge in comfortable houses protected by a minefield. The pair who wrote the ideological blueprint for one of the century's most brutal regimes defected in December. The government of Prime Minister Hun Sen, which contains a number of former Khmer Rouge figures, including Hun Sen himself, laid out a tour of the country for them in January. Despite calls for their arrest within Cambodia and abroad, they were then allowed to come here.

At a foreign language "institute" in Paulin, the children of Khmer Rouge cadres learn

English. When the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia with an iron fist from 1975 to 1979, even speaking a few words of French was sufficient cause for execution.

A bank has opened here. After Khmer Rouge forces marched into Phnom Penh, they drove the entire population out, then blew up the National Bank.

A ruined old Buddhist temple is being rebuilt. Perhaps all this should seem encouraging. Instead it feels repellent.

Leng Vuth, son of Leng Sary, repeats the line that he is not against an international tribunal if all sides in the Cambodian conflict, including the Americans and Vietnamese, are called to account, too.

All the past crimes, he asserts, were committed by leaders now dead. Pol Pot and Son Sen, or by Ta Mok, who is now in custody in Phnom Penh. The others were "only obeying orders," Leng Vuth warns that any attempt to seize Khmer Rouge leaders would mean "some people going back to the jungle and it would be war again."

The Hun Sen government has so far resisted calls for an international tribunal, as recommended by UN experts, to try 20 to 30 Khmer Rouge leaders outside Cambodia.

Is there to be no real accounting?

The writer, Beijing correspondent of The Times of London, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

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OPINION/LETTERS

Russia's Arms Reduction
Should Top U.S. Agenda

By Thomas L. Friedman

TOKYO — I don't know about you, but I slept particularly well last Friday night, knowing that Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic had just joined NATO. What? You say you were too disturbed by the reports of the Clinton team's lackadaisical response to potential Chinese pilfering of U.S. nuclear secrets to sleep well? You say you had insomnia over the fact that the U.S. nuclear arms control regime with Russia is crumbling?

Well, to you I say, "Don't worry, be happy." I read that the Clintonites are planning to bring Slovenia into NATO next, and if that does not make you sleep better, I cannot help you. You must be one of those nuts who still think that the most important strategic issue facing the United States is all the nuclear weapons pointed at it from Russia.

Well, if you are one of those nuts, you are going to have to look outside the administration for therapy. While everyone is yapping about whether China stole some nuclear secrets, the fact is that China has at least 20 long-range warheads capable, at best, of biting California. Folks, Russia still has 7,000 such warheads, and Russia is falling apart.

Because President Bill Clinton's administration made NATO expansion its priority, rather than getting the START-2 nuclear missile reduction treaty with Russia implemented — which would eliminate 3,000 long-range Russian nuclear weapons — the whole arms control agenda is now drifting aimlessly.

Fact: The Clintonites, and Congress, including the Republicans, have been grossly negligent in dealing with America's nuclear arms reduction agenda, particularly with Russia.

"Preventive Defense," a new book by former Defense Secretary William Perry and his top arms control aide, Ashton Carter, reveals that when Mr. Perry and Mr. Carter were running the Pentagon they told Mr. Clinton that NATO expansion "should be deferred until later in the decade."

Mr. Perry details how he insisted at a top-level meeting with the president, on Dec. 21, 1994, that "early expansion was a mistake," because it would provoke "distrust" in Russia and under-

mine cooperation on arms control and other issues, and because "prematurely adding untried militaries" at a time when NATO itself was reassessing its role would not be helpful. Mr. Perry was overruled, in my view because of the Clintonites' zeal for Polish votes.

But this is a book about the future. The authors argue that there are three sorts of security problems that America now faces: There is the "C list" — Kosovo, Haiti and Bosnia. They dominate the headlines, require diplomatic energy to solve, carry regional importance, but in no way threaten vital U.S. interests.

Then there are the "B list" issues. These are major theaters of war — Iraq and the Korean Peninsula — where America has major interests and resources at stake, but where there is still no immediate, Cold War-like threat to its way of life.

Finally, there is the "A list." These are the strategic nuclear threats that can destroy America's way of life. For the past 10 years, the immediacy of these threats has been overshadowed by the B and C lists. But the A-list threats must be reassessed as a priority.

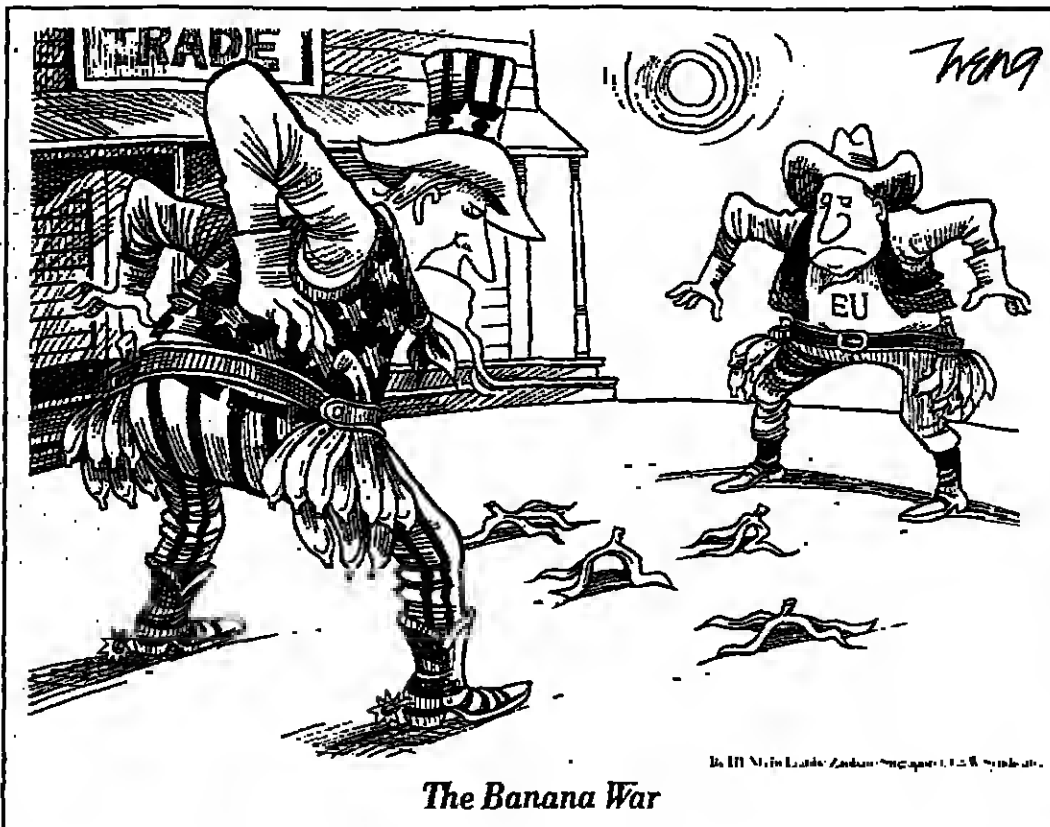
The United States not only needs to get the START-2 treaty implemented and a START-3 negotiated but also, Mr. Carter says, it has to start thinking creatively about reducing Russia's 30,000 potentially loose nukes — all its short-range nuclear warheads and fissile cores, which could easily fall off the back of a truck.

"An arms control or elimination program that would address short-range weapons would require a level of transparency and cooperation that we could not get in the Cold War but might be able to get to now — that is what we mean by preventive defense," Mr. Carter told me.

Mr. Perry made Russian denuclearization his top priority when he was defense secretary, but since he left that focus has been lost in both the administration and Congress.

"I'm sure that our successors believe in the things we were trying to do and support them," Mr. Perry said to me. "But believing and supporting them are not the same as getting them done."

The New York Times



The Banana War

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Appeal to Khatami

While President Mohammed Khatami needs to be encouraged for putting an end to Iran's 20-year-old estrangement from the West, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that Mr. Khatami's visit to Italy was marred by a series of demonstrations by uncompromising groups that label his political agenda as nothing more than a sham, aimed at prolonging the rule of the mullahs without instituting any serious constitutional reforms.

In giving Mr. Khatami the benefit of the doubt, my organization, which is committed to peaceful change, has asked to be allowed to return home and to enter into frank discussions with responsible officials concerning all grievances. This would be an important symbolic gesture and the first of its kind to reunite Iranians at home with the 3-million-strong exile community.

Indeed, if Mr. Khatami's call for a "dialogue of civilizations" at the UN General Assembly last fall is to be taken as anything more than a mere publicity ploy, then it is important that his government demonstrate its willingness to open dialogue with other shades of Iranian

opinion, whose only concerns are to safeguard and promote Iranian national interest. Moreover, the government should make a distinction between opposition groups committed to peaceful dialogue, and those that carry guns and grenades and that will resort to terrorism to achieve their ends.

How Mr. Khatami decides to tackle this issue should be an important indication of his true agenda for change and political reform.

MEHRDAD KHONSARI, London.

The writer is leader of The Constitutionalist Movement of Iran (Front Line).

Threat From China

Regarding "Keep a Level Head Over Engagement With China" (Opinion, March 13) by Tom Ploze:

Mr. Ploze quotes the U.S. Pacific commander in chief, Vice Admiral Dennis Blair, as saying: "China is not a military threat to U.S. interests. It will be many years before the People's Liberation Army presents a major challenge to U.S. forces." I agree with

that assessment, if he is referring only to an attack on the U.S. mainland. But Admiral Blair seems to fail to take into account that, with China stealing advanced weapons technology from the United States, the strategic danger to America's neighbors and allies in Asia (such as Japan and Taiwan) increases enormously. This puts U.S. troops defending these nations in greater jeopardy.

PETER B. MARTIN, Valprie, France.

Blessings of Mortality

Regarding "Science Is Warning of Imminence of Immortality" (Opinion, March 9) by David Ignatius:

Mankind is scared of death, and it therefore appears as great progress for medical research to strive for knowledge that leads to longer life. I am personally more afraid of seeing mortality in danger. It seems to elude many people that the foreknowledge of our death is the motor for structuring our lives, for our creativity and curiosity. Immortality may be the beginning of eternal boredom during life.

JURG P. ROSENBUSCH, Basel, Switzerland.

Computer Game Addicts
Need a 12-Step Program

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — We were sitting around the other night, eight of us, when somehow the subject of computer games came up. The college president confessed to playing them a lot. So did his wife, the lawyer. The concert musician acknowledged a near addiction — and so did her husband, the investment manager. A famous journalist admitted often playing into the wee hours of the night and his wife, an educator, owned up to doing something similar. That left my wife and me. She

confessed this before in a column both brave and true. Friends and strangers alike came forth to announce their own addiction. People I thought were the very model of industriousness, people who even as kids made their beds and did their homework, admitted that they, too, could not stop playing one game or another. I was appalled. I was thrilled. I called "systems." I had the games surgically removed.

I had been playing solitaire when I should have been working. I played when I sat down to write — just to warm up the ol' fingers. I used to tell myself, Minutes passed. I would play until I won. I vowed, I won. I would play until I won twice. I won twice. I would play until I reached a certain score. I reached it. I played and played.

"Oh, you're busy," my wife would say, pecking in on me. I would nod. Writing is hard work. She knew that. Sometimes a column could take hours and hours, I would love to go to the supermarket with her, but I had to write. She would nod, understandingly — and go off by herself.

I felt low. I felt sneaky. I was like some stereotypical alcoholic who hid booze all over the house. I was losing time, work, self-respect. I could not face myself in the morning — or afternoon or evening. I marveled at those of my colleagues who openly played computer games in the office. They had moved beyond shame. I felt. They were either mentally sick or wonderfully liberated. I could not decide.

After I had my solitaire rictus, my productivity greatly increased. I read with detached bemusement the attempts of this or that politician to have games removed from government computers. I was at peace with myself. I worked well. I had an honest relationship with my wife, just as the books recommend. I got used to it.

Then I swapped my old laptop for a new model. It came with Windows. I used it for a while and then one day I noticed something: Accessories. I wondered. I hesitated. I peeked. Sure enough, games. I felt a surge of excitement, also dread. I clicked. Solitaire! It was back. I paused — I'll finish this column later.

The Washington Post

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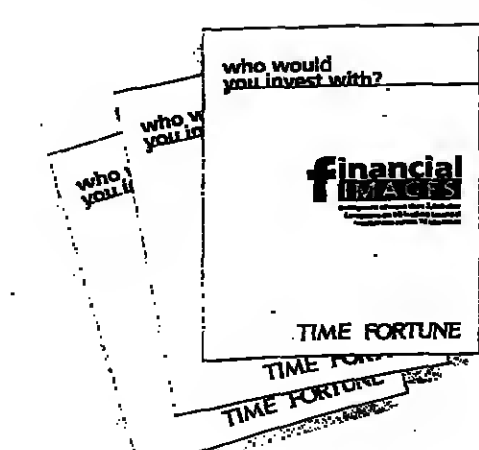
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Reveling In Change

Homage to Robbins
At Paris Opera Ballet

By David Stevens
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Despite more than three centuries of history, the profile of the Paris Opera Ballet has changed radically in the last three decades, a development underlined by the current Balanchine-Robbins program at the Palais Garnier and the homage to Jerome Robbins that launched it.

It is not so much the quality of dancing, since the Paris Opera's ballet school has been pretty consistent in turning out the dancers the company needs. It is more a matter of repertoire, which in the last quarter-century or so has seen a major infusion of both 19th-century and 20th-century classics.

What goes around comes around. Marius Petipa left France for St. Petersburg and created his great romantic ballets. George Balanchine, trained in St. Petersburg, led a small troupe to the West and ended up creating his first great works for Diaghilev. But for an accident of history, he might have ended up as the ballet director at the Paris Opera. Instead Serge Lifar took over and Balanchine went with Lincoln Kirstein to found what eventually became the New York City Ballet, in due time with Robbins as co-ballet master.

Flash forward. In 1973, Rolf Liebermann became administrator of the Paris Opera, where he not only revitalized the operatic repertoire but also recognized the equally important — began giving the ballet company heavy infusions of Balanchine and Robbins. Now the Paris Opera Ballet has 26 Balanchine ballets and 13 by Robbins — the solid, classically based platform of its 20th-century repertoire. (Later on, Rudolf Nureyev became Paris ballet director and mounted his versions of the Petipa classics, works that except for Vladimir Bourmeister's "Swan Lake" in 1960, the company had never performed before. But that is another story.)

So the homage to Robbins a few days ago can be seen not only as a tribute to the great choreographer who died last July 29, but also as an unspoken tribute to Liebermann, the formidable impresario who died on Jan. 2.

The homage to Robbins program that opened the current run included a work new to the Paris company, the first that he could not come to rehearse himself.



Isabelle Guerin and Manuel Legris in Robbins's "Other Dances."

That was "Other Dances," created for Natalia Makarova and Mikhail Baryshnikov in 1976 and set to four Chopin mazurkas and one waltz. Isabelle Guerin and Manuel Legris danced them elegantly, with their echoes of Russian folk gestures conceived for the two fugitives from Leningrad's dance world.

Also on the program was another exploration of the world of Chopin's piano music, "In the Night" (1970), the nocturnal equivalent of the magnificent "Dances at a Gathering," that Robbins had created a year earlier. This was danced by a trio of couples, Fanny Gaida and Legris, Elisabeth Platel and Kader Belarbi, and Carole Arbo and Laurent Hilaire.

The other purely dance numbers on the program included "A Suite of Dances," which could be described as a pas de deux for a cellist (Maurice Bailly) and a dancer (Nicolas Le Riche) to excerpts from Bach's solo suites for cello, and the hilarious 1956 classic "The Concert," in which Robbins, inspired by Saul Steinberg cartoons, makes irresistible fun of the self-indulgent antics of a concert

audience, again to the piano music of Chopin. The program included an excerpt of a film by Dominique Delouche, in which Robbins rehearses Monique Loudieres and Manuel Legris in one of the pas de deux of "In the Night," struggling to express himself in his nonexistent French but ending up by communicating in superbly effective body language.

THE SENSE of occasion was heightened by opening the evening with the grand parade of the entire company to Berlioz's march from "Les Troyens," with the stage opened up all the way back to the ornate Foyer de la Danse, which most ballet fans otherwise never get to see.

Henri Barda was the fluent and industrious pianist for all the Chopin. David Coleman conducted the Berlioz, and Hugo Fiorato, who worked with Balanchine from the 1940s, conducted the orchestral parts of "The Concert."

The Balanchine-Robbins program, which runs through April 4, omits "Other Dances" and includes Balanchine's Bach classic, "Concerto Barocco."

Dealing With the Devil

A Night of Word Games With Albert Speer

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Gitta Sereny, Albert Speer's biographer, has already made it clear that she is less than happy with the portrayal of him in Esther Vilar's new play, "Speer," at the Almeida, and one can certainly see her point in this production about Hitler's old dream merchant.

As mesmerizingly played by Klaus Maria Brandauer, who here as in "Mephisto" on screen seems to be at his best playing artists who made pacts with the Nazi devil, Speer emerges from prison to do a curious deal with East Berlin that would involve his construction of Germania (a manically gothic and essentially loony building project that would doubtless have ended up as Disneyland East) and the electronic tagging of would-be escapees over the wall to avoid the local embarrassment of having them shot.

The problem with an always enthralling two-man show, also directed by Brandauer, is that its author can never quite decide whether she's writing the political version of "Sleuth" or trying to tell us something new about Speer's remarkable talent for survival.

Happy to throw in his lot with Hitler, who seems to have fancied him if only platonically, he stages a triumphant bid for his own life at Nuremberg, spends a few decades in prison writing autobiographical best-sellers, and is now, in this fantasy, willing to do the same sort of deal with Honecker in 1980 that he had done with Hitler almost half a century earlier.

Vilar's passion for the word games played by Speer and the only other character on stage, a somewhat underpowered Sven Eric Bechtolf as the East German functionary sent to try to win him over the wall, often prevents us from getting really close to the heart of her play, which manages about three double twists of plot in the last 10 minutes alone.

As a blackmail or revenge drama, "Speer" is remarkably clumsy; but for its occasional insights into what Speer run, as well as for the final delivery of evidence that would have been enough to hang him at Nuremberg, the play is well worth a look if only for Brandauer's Olivier-like ability to prowl, panther-like, around the set with all eyes on him.

If at the end we are left in doubt as to the precise extent of the central character's corruption and villainy, it also has to be noted that it is precisely those doubts about the "good Nazi" that keep



Sven Eric Bechtolf, left, and Klaus Maria Brandauer in "Speer."

this vehicle from getting itself tied up in knots. And we haven't heard the last of him: David Edgar is adapting the Sereny biography for the National.

At the Young Vic for the Royal Shakespeare Company, Stephen Poliakoff's "Talk of the City" is a brilliant idea gone sadly adrift. Set in Broadcasting House in the late 1930s, it concerns a group of radio broadcasters suddenly faced with twin threats in the coming of war and television. As to the war, the star of one of the Saturday night concert extravaganzas decides that he wishes to infiltrate his inane comedy routines with news of what the Nazis were starting to do to the Jews. As for television, Poliakoff seems only to want to make the ironic point that radio never understood, in 1938, that the killer was not going to be the war but the new medium.

All kinds of ideas are fighting for air time here. Poliakoff's usual fascination with the ways in which history is rewritten; the precise nature, if any, of the BBC's independence from Downing Street, and perhaps above all, how a group of ill-assorted characters either make their peace or come to blows with the BBC as a semi-sovereign state in its own prewar realignment.

The problem is that Poliakoff then decides to explore several characters' plot lines in some detail: the singer-

comic who becomes a kind of Scarlet Pimpernel (David Westhead), the German Jew who comes to warn him of trouble, a couple of women, only one of whom will survive the prewar panics, and a BBC functionary played with splendidly chilly aplomb by John Normington.

It is not that these characters are implausible (some of them were indeed still alive and well when I first joined the BBC almost 30 years after the war), but that halfway through the play Poliakoff has around half a dozen plots going and is finally unable to focus on whichever really matters most.

Not for the first time, I suspect this play might have worked better as a six-part TV serial.

At the Battersea Arts Centre, Charlie Wood has a new version of Gogol's "Gamblers" played out in 90 minutes as a kind of pre-Russian Revolution, David Mamet card-playing scam. An all-male cast of nine, powerfully led by Tam Williams, plays an 1840 game of cards as if their lives depended on it, which in a way of course they do. Although Joe Spence's new adaptation never quite gets us away from the idea of a short story brought to life, there's a claustrophobic intensity here as well as a strong team of young character actors fighting to establish individual identities before the cards are cut.

BOOKS

EVENSONG

By Gail Godwin. 405 pages.
\$23. Ballantine Books.

Reviewed by Christopher
Lehmann-Haupt

THE title of Gail Godwin's rich new novel, "Evensong," refers, its epigraph says, to "a worship service said or sung at the onset of evening to mark the close of day and to compose the mind and renew the spirit for the coming day." The sense of calm and beauty this evokes is reinforced by the book's dust jacket, a moonlit landscape of the Great Smoky Mountains, presumably in western North Carolina where the novel is set.

As you read "Evensong," however, you find its title taking on an ironic edge. For its story is not about the close of a day but rather about the end of the old millennium and the coming of the new. (One clever character correctly points out that the transition doesn't actually occur until 2001. But like most of us, Godwin's people consider the last midnight of 1999 as the turning point.) What is happening at the close of 1999 to the Reverend Margaret Bonner, the story's protagonist and narrator, is very far from beautiful and calming.

The young pastor of the All Saints Episcopal Church in the Smoky Mountain town of High Balsam, Margaret feels alienated from her gloomy husband, Adrian, who is undergoing a depressing crisis of his own. (Readers will recognize these two from Godwin's earlier novel "Father Melancholy's Daughter.")

The chaplain of a boarding school for troubled children, Adrian not only has to stand in for the recently deceased

headmaster until a new one is hired, but also must expel a student he particularly cares for, Chase Zorn, for once again breaking into the school's chapel and drinking the communion wine. Partly as a result of these pressures, Adrian has not slept with Margaret for some six months.

Meanwhile, Margaret is struggling to fend off the zealous efforts of one Grace Munger to enlist All Saints in a Millennium Birthday March for Jesus intended to heal certain socioeconomic rifts that have developed in High Balsam. Realizing that by not joining in she risks making her church seem as elitist as many consider it anyway, Margaret nevertheless refuses to get caught up in Christian crusading.

In the midst of this turmoil a strange old man arrives at the Bonners' doorstep, identifying himself as Tony, from the Abbey of the Transfiguration, up in Esopus, New York, traveling the country on "one of the Greyhound Millennium Passes." Margaret, who knows that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were punished as much for their inhospitality as for their sexual practices, feels that she has to take Tony in.

Godwin handles these crises with the narrative verve and moral gravity that made earlier novels of hers like "Glass People," "A Mother and Two Daughters" and "The Finishing School," among her 11 previous works of fiction, so appealing.

Yet for all of Godwin's skill you can't help feeling that there's something soap-operatic about her narrative, that the sequence of dramatic events is just one thing after another, especially when it comes to the ending, which

while striving for tragedy very nearly stumbles into farce.

You resist this conclusion, even chastise yourself for thinking it, because her story is always reaching beyond itself by means of references, anecdotes, significant incidents and even humor. For instance, one evening prayer Margaret knows by heart ends with the words: "Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake, Amen."

The phrase "shield the joyous," makes Margaret feel "joy's end even as you're evoking pictures of its many manifestations." She recalls once enjoying a Yorkshire landscape "dotted with newborn lambs," only to be told when she stops at an inn that "you might well make the acquaintance of one on your dinner plate."

Yet despite all this spiritual play, Godwin's story never transcends its realism. "A field theory style of narrative, rather than linear, would be useful here, whatever that might be like," Margaret muses when introducing what

happens at her story's end. "What I mean to say is, things that had been stealthily ripening in a few separate souls now came to a head and 'for better or worse' found outward expression, more or less at the same time."

But she can't avail herself of a field theory style of narrative, so events have to stay in line and on the surface.

"There's an interesting Greek word, *kath' hune*," one of Godwin's characters announces in a typically entertaining aside. "Literally, it means, 'to search for the purple fish.'"

"The literal purple fish was a shellfish highly prized by the Greeks for its rich purple dye," he continues. "Divers went to the bottom of the sea in search of this elusive fish. That's how 'searching for purple fish' came to be the Greeks' expression for plumbing the depths of one's mind."

Through its prose, "Evensong" searches for the purple fish. But because of its single-character point of view and its realistic form, it comes up short of a real catch.

New York Times Service

BEST SELLERS

The New York Times This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on the list are not necessarily consecutive.		
FICTION		
1 THE TESTAMENT, by John Grisham	1	4
2 APOLLYON, by Tim LaHaye	7	3
3 SOUTHERN CROSS, by Patricia Cornwell	2	7
4 BE COOL, by Elmore Leonard	9	3
5 RANSOM, by Julie Garwood	3	4
6 A SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART, by Barbara Taylor	10	2
7 SEND NO FLOWERS, by Sandra Brown	4	4
8 THE POISONWOOD RIBBLE, by Barbara Kingsolver	6	20
9 ANY AND ISABELLE, by Elizabeth Strout	1	1
10 A MAN IN FULL, by Tim Wile	5	17
11 HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE, by J.K. Rowling	8	12
12 WHILE WAS GONE, by Sue Miller	13	3
13 SEIZE THE NIGHT, by Dean Koontz	12	4
14 AMSTERDAM, by Ian McEwan	15	8
15 THE CAT WHO SAW STARS, by Lillian Jackson Braun	6	
NONFICTION		
1 THE GREATEST GENERATION, by Tom Brink	1	13
2 TUESDAY'S MORRIE, by March Albem	2	73
3 PERFECT MURDER, PERFECT TIA, by Lawrence Sanders	3	2
4 REALITY, FACES, DIMENSIONS, by Judith Shulevitz	7	4
5 REACHING TO HEAVEN, by James Van Praeger	1	1
6 THE ART OF HAPPINESS, by Dale Latta and Howard C. Clarke	5	8
7 TRAVELING MERCIES, by Anne Lamott	6	5
8 BLIND MAN'S BLUFF, by Sherry Somers and Christopher Drew	4	15
9 THE CENTURY, by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster	9	15
10 FIRST PERSON PLURAL, by Carmen West	1	1
11 CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD: Book 1, by Neale Donald Walsch	11	114
12 PLAYING FOR KEEPS, by David Hubbard	3	5
13 THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN, by Sam Winchester	12	24
14 THE ENDURANCE, by John O'Shea	14	15
15 CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD: Book 3, by Neale Donald Walsch	13	19
ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS		
1 SUGAR BUSTERS, by H. Lightfoot Stevens et al.	2	30
2 HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT AND WHAT YOU HAVE, by John O'Shea	1	5
3 ONE DAY MY SOUL JUST OPENED UP, by Ivana Vanman	13	13
4 LIFE STRATEGIES, by Philip C. McGraw	4	7

Strife in the German Theater

By Anne Midgette

BERLIN — Competition can be good for business — even among cultural institutions. But in Germany in the last few months, a rivalry involving three leading men of the theater has revealed the intensity with which German theater and German cultural politicians can vie with one another for headlines, renown and as large a piece as possible of the country's cultural pie.

German theater is political, not least in the fact that the post of "theater director" is technically a political appointment. Take the Deutsches Theater in the former East Berlin, for example, one of the largest theaters for spoken drama in Germany. It was the stamping ground of the legendary director Max Reinhardt and, after World War II, the actor-director Wolfgang Langhoff, who welcomed Bertolt Brecht and his Berliner Ensemble as long-term guests.

Once the wall fell, a theater director was sought to lead the house through the transition to a united Germany. As a result, Ulrich Roloff-Mömm, the first cultural senator of reunified Berlin, appointed the stage director Thomas Langhoff to the post.

A citizen of the former East Germany with a good reputation in both parts of the country and no political affiliation, Langhoff seemed a perfect choice. He also represented tradition: He had worked at the Deutsches Theater before, and he was Wolfgang Langhoff's son.

He has had a lot to contend with. Financial constraints imposed by the Berlin Senate lopped some \$4 million from his budget, compelling him to reduce the staff to 350 from 500 and to cut the number of new productions. Although the Deutsches Theater took the covered German Theater Critic's Award for Theater of the Year in 1991-92, the critics have been less enthusiastic in the last several years.

But the theater remained reasonably well-attended. Langhoff was popular with his ensemble and he had announced a new concept for the house: a plan to bring in new directors — the French star director Luc Bondy will come here in 1999-2000 — and rekindle some of the excitement the theater has experienced in its long tradition.

On the other side of the country, wealthy Munich also has an active theater scene. But where post-reunification Berlin has a number of major repertory theaters that receive government subsidies, Munich has only two. Of these, the Munich Kammerspiele is the undisputed leader, thanks to its director, Dieter Dorn, who in his 21-year tenure has transformed it into one of the top theaters in Germany.

Robert Wilson and, yes, Thomas Langhoff have worked there. Dorn is also well respected in Munich's cultural life because of his own stagings, both at the Kammerspiele and, for example, at the Bavarian State Opera, where his "Cosi fan tutte" is one of the

theater's strongest productions. Despite geographical differences, Langhoff and Dorn have a few things in common. Both are stage directors; both are about the same age (Langhoff is 60, Dorn 63), and the contracts of both men with their respective houses are coming up for renewal in 2001.

Another leading man on the German theater scene is Frank Baumbauer, the successful head of the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg. While not a stage director, Baumbauer has a nose for what is new and hot in theater. When he arrived in Hamburg, the house was struggling; since then, it has received the Theater of the Year award three times. Directors active at the house include the eccentric Swiss wun-

"The job of politicians is to give us money and keep their mouths shut."

derkierd Christoph Marthaler, one of Europe's most popular tickets at the moment, and Jossi Wieler, a specialist in making obscure texts theatrically viable, who won the Production of the Year award with his staging here in 1993-94 of a work by Elfriede Jelinek.

An ultimate sign of the hipness of Baumbauer's theater are the frequent co-productions with the Salzburg Festival, one of the most "in" spots for the German-speaking theater. As of this summer, in fact, Baumbauer is to take over as director of theater at Salzburg, a post he will hold at least until 2001.

Baumbauer, in short, is the kind of man the cultural politicians just love. They find it reassuring that he is not an artist but someone they can talk business with; and they like that he brings critics, good artists and buzz to a city, bolstering its reputation for tourism, and, by extension, the politicians' jobs.

Adding to his attractiveness in the last few months was the fact that he was "available." His contract in Hamburg runs out in 2000 — tomorrow in theater terms; he will be replaced by Tom Stromberg, who built the Theater am Turm in Frankfurt into a renowned avant-garde space until it was effectively felled by the city's lack of funds.

The idea that someone like Baumbauer might be free to come to their cities was particularly exciting to Munich's cultural affairs officer, Julian Nida-Rumelin, and to Berlin's cultural senator, Peter Radunski. Both men are responsible for the arts in cities jealous of their cultural supremacy.

Before reunification, Munich, most Germans' favorite metropolis, liked to be known as the country's "secret capital." Berlin has begun to threaten that status now, though more often in headlines, as it verges on becoming the country's actual capital, with the potential to blossom into the international cultural

center it was before the Nazi era.

So Nida-Rumelin, who has been in office in Munich for less than a year, would like to do something to bring his city back into the limelight. Radunski, meanwhile, is trying to make sure that Berlin, which has come under fire for supposedly lacking a coherent cultural direction, stays in the headlines. He would also like to generate some positive attention for himself before elections in the autumn.

The politicians moved with surprising swiftness. In January, within a few days of each other, both Dorn and Langhoff, who had no reason to believe they had anything less than unequivocal support, were suddenly informed that their contracts were not going to be renewed. Distinguished service counted for little: Radunski's dismissal of Langhoff took all of 15 minutes.

It was no secret that both posts were being cleared for Baumbauer. Both cities approached the director in November. Baumbauer said that since both houses already had directors, there was no point in approaching him unless a position actually came free.

After the story broke in January, Langhoff held a news conference, and Dorn wrote an open letter protesting the "lack of ideas, lack of standards, lack of vision" that had led to his dismissal. He was supported in another letter signed by all 41 members of his ensemble.

Like any political affair, this one has inspired a spectrum of opinion. Germans are fond of complaining about the philistinism of cultural politicians, and the situation has provided plenty of fuel for their arguments. Yet few Germans are really interested in changing the system of political subsidy that makes art a political affair in the first place, though the present situation is certainly a consequence of that system.

TRADITION usually wins out in Germany. In this particular case, Baumbauer, who is originally from Munich, where his mother still lives, turned down the Berlin offer and has opened negotiations with the City of Munich about heading the Kammerspiele. Pending his decision, the Munich Senate is expected to decide the issue by the end of this month.

Meanwhile, two of Germany's leading stage directors have suddenly found themselves looking for work. In Berlin, Radunski, who would lose face politically if he rehired Langhoff, is seeking someone else to take over the Deutsches Theater in 2001. "The most important thing is that he be new," Radunski says.

As for Thomas Langhoff, he will spend the next two years doing as much as he can before his successor, whoever that may be, takes over. "The job of politicians is to give us money and keep their mouths shut," he said.

Anne Midgette, who writes on international art, music and theater, wrote this for The New York Times.

Tech

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Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Taking On Japan's Banks

Official's Hard Line Is Starting to Show Results



Mr. Yanagisawa is trying to force change at Japan's financial companies, like Sumitomo Corp., at right.

By Sandra Sugawara
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — Big, bold action. That's what Hukuo Yanagisawa is looking for.

As chairman of Japan's Financial Reconstruction Commission, Mr. Yanagisawa is in charge of overseeing the cleanup of Japan's ailing banking system. And as he assesses the enormous task that lies ahead — dealing forthrightly with the more than \$700 billion of bad loans currently muckling up the banks' books — Mr. Yanagisawa says that what Japan needs is a bold corporate leader willing to slash costs and publicly recognize the full amount of problem loans.

"There are no John Reeds in Japan," he muttered to reporters and aides in February — invoking the executive he credits with rescuing what was then America's largest bank, Citicorp, in the early 1990s — after Japan's major banks submitted their initial reconstruction plans to the five-member commission he heads.

Mr. Yanagisawa is attempting to force a wholesale change in perspective among the institutions. Although he is not popular in some financial quarters here, Mr. Yanagisawa's medicine is starting to yield a payoff. Bank stock prices have been rising, and the banks are having fewer problems raising money in global markets. Traders say the so-called Japan premium — the extra interest that Japanese banks had to pay global lenders to attract capital — has virtually disappeared.

Along with its sister agency, the Financial Supervisory Agency, which inspects banks' books, the Financial Reconstruction Commission has helped administer the \$61 billion government payment to bolster the largest banks in return for cost-cutting that is to include eliminating 20,000 jobs, or about 14 percent of the work force, over four years. Under Mr. Yanagisawa's prodding, many banks are also closing overseas branches.

But the nascent attempts at bank reform are subtly shaking the foundation of "Japan Inc.," the nation's socially sensitive brand of capitalism, with its emphasis on workers' rights and shared corporate pain. To bolster their balance sheets, some banks are focusing on profits and pulling back from risky customers, and some are beginning to sell their holdings of stocks in longtime client companies, undoing a

portion of the web that once underlay "Fortress Japan."

"What a generation of jawboning and threatened trade sanctions could not accomplish is now being delivered by the consequences of magnanimity and failing banks," said Clyde Prestowitz, a former U.S. trade negotiator and head of the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington.

The government of Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi has not warmly embraced Western-style free markets. But the government was essentially forced to pass banking-reform legislation last autumn when global lenders started to refuse to deal with Japanese banks, threatening the stability of Japan's financial system.

In the midst of this upheaval, Mr. Obuchi appointed Mr. Yanagisawa, a senior but little-known politician from the governing Liberal Democratic Party, to the new post of minister of state for financial reconstruction. Mr. Yanagisawa's appointment was greeted skeptically by foreign investors. But his supporters argued that he had been preparing for such a job since the early 1970s.

Wanted: a bold leader willing to cut costs and recognize the problems.

Back then, he was a young Finance Ministry bureaucrat based in New York. He spent those years selling government-guaranteed bonds issued by Japan Development Bank to U.S. investment bankers. The more deeply he got immersed in Wall Street, the more intrigued he was.

He said he watched Chase Manhattan Corp. transform itself from "a rather dull bank" to a large, dynamic one. Through friends he made at Morgan Stanley & Co. and Brown Brothers Harriman & Co., he observed the evolution of those institutions from insular investment banks into global powerhouses.

In an effort to better grasp the intricacies of the foreign-exchange market, Mr. Yanagisawa set up a meeting with Citicorp's then-chairman, Walter Wriston. He said he remembered the meeting vividly — the decor, his feeling of confidence as he entered the room as the Finance Ministry representative of Japan, a nation whose economy and currency were getting stronger each day.

He also remembered the force with which Mr. Wriston, known for his arrogance, knocked the air out of him. "I approached the meeting with such confidence. But he beat me down completely," said Mr. Yanagisawa, chuckling.

See YEN, Page 17

Commission Leaves a Power Vacuum

But Some See an Opportunity for the EU To Make Needed Changes

BRUSSELS — The mass resignation of the European Commission raised immediate questions Tuesday about the European Union's ability to resolve ongoing trade disputes with the United States and to overhaul EU finances, analysts said.

But the collective resignation of the EU's executive body, over the long term, could be positive because it may force a major reform of institutions, other analysts and politicians said.

"In the very short term, this is not very good for Europe because it will slow down the decision process, but in the medium term it's very good because it will lead to a more efficient commission," said Eric Chaney, an executive director and head of European research at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

"What we have to do now is to use this event as an opportunity to drive through root and branch reform in Europe," said the British prime minister, Tony Blair. While the euro initially dropped Tuesday against the dollar and the yen after the commission resigned over charges of widespread corruption, the new single

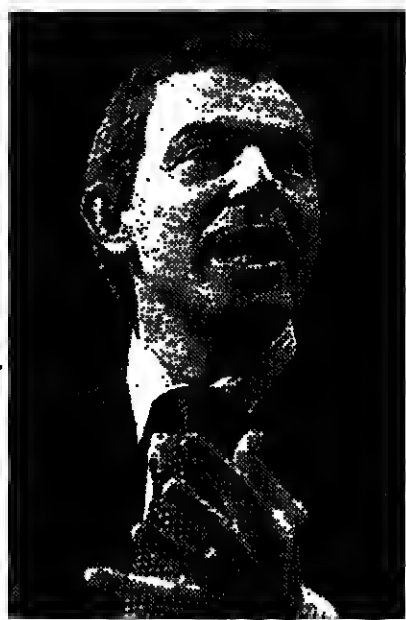
currency regained that lost ground as investors bet that the mass resignation would not affect European monetary or economic policy. (Page 12)

The unprecedented resignation of the 20 commissioners who run the EU's bureaucracy came after a panel of experts accused them on Monday of failing to combat fraud and of mismanaging the bloc's 85 billion euro (\$93 billion) budget.

The commission plans to stay on in a caretaker role, however, placing a question mark over the executive arm's authority.

Analysts said the caretaker status of the commission was likely to cause turmoil, at least temporarily, as EU member states seek agreement on how to improve the workings of the institutions, and also on whom to entrust with running the bureaucracy.

The commission's watchdog role over corporate mergers and acquisitions looked unlikely to be affected by the resignations, antitrust lawyers and other EU specialists said.



Prime Minister Tony Blair sees the EU resignations as an opportunity.

See EURO, Page 13

Outlook for Profits Splits Merrill Seers

By Jonathan Fuerbringer
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The unexpectedly strong performance of the U.S. economy so far this year has pushed the corporate earnings forecasts of many market strategists higher. For example, Bruce Steinberg, chief economist at Merrill Lynch & Co., raised his earnings growth prediction on its head, flipping to an increase of 3.5 percent from a decline of 5 percent.

But his colleague, Richard Bernstein, director of quantitative research at Merrill Lynch, has a different view. Unlike Mr. Steinberg, he maintains that the direction of earnings is down, not up. As he said in a recent report: "We do not have one indicator that suggests that the profit cycle will accelerate."

Disagreements within one shop are not unusual, especially because big firms have many analysts who use different approaches to try to fathom what is going on in financial markets. But this difference in direction — especially after the

two were in accord before Mr. Steinberg's switch — does show how confusing the earnings outlook might be for investors, and how quickly it can change.

"The investment environment is very complex right now," Mr. Steinberg said, giving his take on what the difference in the forecasts means. "We each have our own discipline," he added. "Strategists and economists often disagree with each other, so this is not unusual."

Mr. Bernstein acknowledged that "it certainly is a difference in direction." He explained that his forecast is the outgrowth of his main theme for 1999 — that the profit cycle has decoupled from the economic growth cycle. That is, the two can move in opposite directions, as they did in 1998. While the economy grew briskly at a 3.9 percent rate, profits for the 500 companies in the Standard & Poor's index dropped 0.5 percent.

What makes this debate important is that the move to 10,000 by the Dow Jones industrial average, the new highs for the S&P 500 index and the rebound in the Nasdaq index, despite a lot of

earnings warnings from technology companies, all seem to be riding, in part, on the expectation of a revival in corporate profits later this year.

Mr. Bernstein argues that earnings are not going to rebound because companies have lost their ability to raise prices and, in turn, pass on increasing costs, especially rising wages. Because of this, he said, profits are being squeezed. He said this squeeze will eventually force layoffs that will crimp consumer spending, the backbone of the economy's recent surprising performance.

But while Mr. Steinberg may represent the consensus and Mr. Bernstein the contrarian view — and investors may just have to choose whose view to follow — they do agree on several areas. One is that consumer stocks are the place to be. Mr. Bernstein, although he sees slower growth, argues that the loss of profit growth for companies turns out to be a gain for consumers. They are getting ahead both with higher wages and the savings from the inability of companies to pass on price increases.

Canada Pressures U.S. on Magazines

By Steven Pearlstein
Washington Post Service

OTTAWA — Taking a step closer to a trade war with the United States, the House of Commons has passed legislation making it a criminal offense for Canadians to place advertising in American or any other foreign-owned magazines.

The bill, backed by the Liberal Party government and three of the four opposition parties, was approved by Canada's lower house on Monday night, 196 to 43. The Senate could amend the measure, but it usually passes bills that have been approved by the lower chamber.

Many Canadians see the legislation as a necessary defense of Canadian culture against the steady encroachment of the U.S. entertainment-industrial complex, as it has come to be known here.

U.S. officials, fearing that the measure could set a dangerous precedent for other countries, have vowed to retaliate by slapping tariffs on Canadian steel, wood, plastics and textiles — industries that account for more than \$15 billion in annual exports to the United States.

Despite the brinkmanship on both sides, there were signs late last week that a compromise might be in the offing that could avert the trade conflict between the world's two biggest trading partners.

"I would say that the Canadians for the first time seemed to be more willing to engage in constructive conversation," Richard Fisher, deputy U.S. trade representative, said Friday.

But Heritage Minister Sheila Copps, who maneuvered the bill through the cabinet and Commons consideration, took a defiant tone after the vote Monday.

"We have no intention of watering anything down," she said.

The talks are scheduled to continue in Ottawa this week.

At issue is not whether American magazines should be allowed to circulate in Canada. They already account for 85 percent of the titles on Canadian newsstands and about half of all magazine circulation in Canada.

Rather, the dispute concerns advertising, the primary source of revenue for magazines.

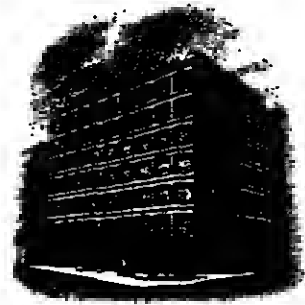
Canadian publishers warn that if

American magazines such as Sports Illustrated and Playboy are allowed to sell ads to Canadian advertisers in special Canadian editions, known as split-run magazines, they will be able to drive down the price of advertising to the point that most Canadian magazines will be forced out of business.

This issue has been a thorn in U.S.-Canadian relations for more than 30 years. It has taken on significance for both countries that far exceeds the commercial importance of Canada's English-language advertising market of \$240 million per year.

Officials familiar with the U.S.-Canadian talks say that an eventual compromise might require that, in order to sell advertising in Canadian editions, American publishers would have to set up Canadian subsidiaries and have at least half of the content written by Canadians or about things Canadian.

At the same time, the United States is pressing Canada to change its tax code, which allows Canadian companies to deduct the cost of advertising in Canadian magazines but not advertising placed in foreign ones.



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CURRENCY RATES									
March 16									
Cross Rates									
London (£)	1.6243								
New York (\$)	1.4292	1.4538	117.695	1.5275	6.814	292.36	8.216		
Tokyo (¥)	117.45	190.33	79.75	76.94	17.14	N.Q.	14.30		
Yen (¥)	1.5292	2.4837	1.0425	1.2945	0.2243	0.5188	0.1889		
Zurich (Sfr)	1.4671	2.3823		1.2419	0.9592	21.5149	0.4976	0.1785	
One euro	1.0901	0.4703	1.5995	1.2845	1.6658	7.4322	321.30	8.969	
One SDR	1.3688	0.8426	2.0016	163.093	2.0908	9.2969	401.483	11.1215	
Euro Values									
Fixed rates of the ECU member currencies, for one euro:									
Austrian schilling	13.7603								
Belgian franc	40.3399								
Dutch guilder	2.46372								
French franc	6.55957								
German mark	1.93626								
Italian lire	2,004.81								
Portuguese escudo	200.482								
Spanish peseta	166.386								
Other Dollar Values									
Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
Argentine peso	0.0995	Hong Kong	2.2181	N. Zealand \$	1.3975	Sw. krona	46.77		
Australian \$	1.5893	Indian rupee	42.40	N. Korea won	4.225	S. Korea won	6.225		
Brunei dollar	1.82	Indo. rupiah	675.0	Pakistani rupee	59.51	S. Korea won	126.6		
Canadian \$	0.7125	Israeli sheq.	4.0389	Phil. peso	38.79	Taiwan \$	33.09		
Chinese yuan	8.2765	Kor. won	1.0000	Polish zloty	3.35	Thai baht	20.20		
Czech koruna	34.40	Latvian lat	1.3603	Romanian leu	22.50	Turkish liras	16.668		
Egypt. pound	2.8253	Malay. ring.	2.30	Saudi riyal	3.75	UAE dirham	3.671		
Hong Kong \$	7.74	Mexican peso	9.57	Singapore \$	1.7225	Venez. bol.	576.25		
European Cross Rates									
Euro-EMU rates are permanently fixed									
Currency	Per Euro	Currency	Per Euro	Currency	Per Euro	Currency	Per Euro	Currency	Per Euro
Belgium	12.4722	France	6.5595	Germany	1.9363	Italy	2,004.81	Spain	166.386
Denmark	20.4818	Greece	340.750	Ireland	7.8756	Netherlands	2.20371	Portugal	200.482
Finland	5.94573	Spain	166.386	Sweden	4.66337	Switzerland	1.45637	United Kingdom	1.49363
France	6.55957	Sweden	4.66337	Switzerland	1.45637	United Kingdom	1.49363		
Germany	1.93626	Switzerland	1.45637	United Kingdom	1.49363				
Greece	340.750	United Kingdom	1.49363						
Ireland	7.8756								
Italy	2,004.81								
Netherlands	2.20371								
Portugal	200.482								
Spain	166.386								
Sweden	4.66337								
Switzerland	1.45637								
United Kingdom	1.49363								

THE AMERICAS

Shifting Course, U.S. Banks Increase Credit Lines to Brazil

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — U.S. banks have increased credit lines to Brazil in recent weeks, reversing months of cuts, while European banks have continued to slash exposure to Latin America's biggest economy, a senior official of the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday.

Lenders such as Citigroup Inc. and Chase Manhattan Corp. increased credit after prodding from the IMF and U.S. officials once Brazil sealed a revised agreement with the IMF to ensure that \$41.5 billion of aid would keep flowing, officials said at the Inter-American Development Bank annual meeting here.

The U.S. banks rolled over "more than 100 percent" of their loans to Brazil in the past three weeks, said Teresa Temmissson, the IMF's deputy director of the

Western Hemisphere department.

"They are quite happy to do so," But she stressed that the effort to involve the private sector in helping Brazil surmount its current financial problems was on a "purely voluntary" basis.

"As long as they can be assured that everybody else chooses at the same time to stay in," the Brazil market, the banks are happy, she added.

Pedro Malan, Brazil's finance minister, said Friday that he had won assurances from western banks that a \$41.5 billion of credit lines, totaling \$23 billion, for six months, which would cover Brazil's balance-of-payments needs to the end of the year.

The IMF last week endorsed the country's revised economic program, paving the way for the release

of an IMF loan of \$4.9 billion, part of a \$41.5 billion international loan package that the IMF arranged last year to help shore up investor confidence in Brazil.

The return of fresh capital to Brazil is crucial to pull the economy out of recession and steady the currency. Companies need fresh loans to repay debts and finance investments in industries such as telecommunications and electricity.

The currency has rallied in recent weeks after plunging to a record low earlier this month. The real has gained 9 percent in March, with the dollar falling to 1.8550 reals on Tuesday.

Brazil's credit lines from foreign banks dwindled to about \$28 billion at the end of February, from \$52 billion in August when Russia's debt default triggered an exodus

among investors who were concerned that Brazil may be the next to go.

Separately, the IMF on Tuesday cut its 1999 economic growth forecast for Latin America to zero from a previously estimated 1.5 percent because of Brazil's currency devaluation in January.

Latin America grew 2.5 percent last year and 5.1 percent in 1997. "GDP will be stagnant," said Claudio Loser, director of the IMF's Western Hemisphere department.

Mr. Loser said he expects the region to grow near the end of the year as confidence returns and interest rates fall.

He added that Brazil's devaluation will speed up the inflation rate in the region. He sees inflation between 12 percent and 13 percent this year, up from 10 percent in 1998.

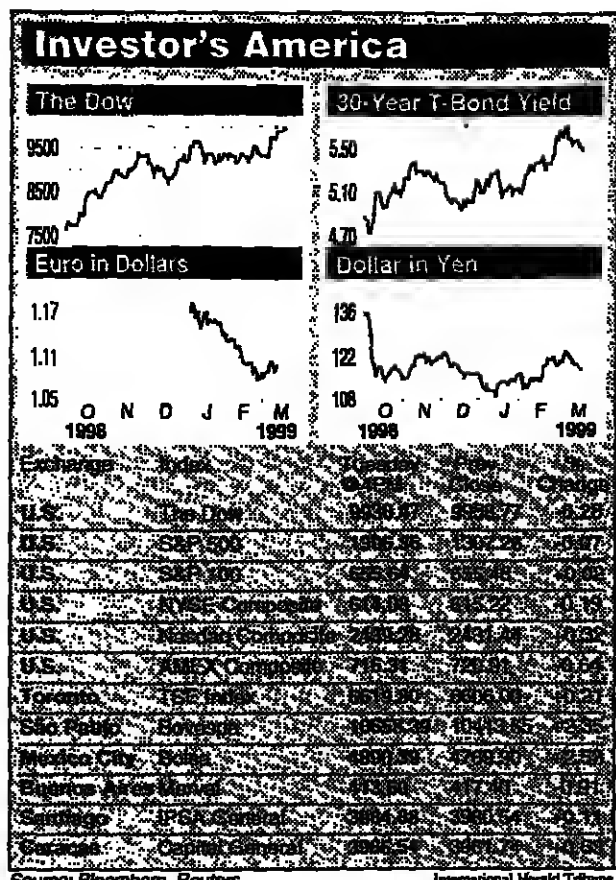
Also at the IDB meeting, English-speaking Caribbean countries said that the regional development bank does not provide them with enough money.

"The recent performance of the Bank Group has not met our expectations, particularly since the level and regularity of approvals and commitments continue to fall short of our needs," said the finance minister of Guyana, Bharat Jagdeo.

Mr. Jagdeo, speaking for the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago as well as his own country, noted that in 1998 the IDB approved only five projects in three of these countries totaling \$132 million.

This was double the previous year's figure but still far from enough, Mr. Jagdeo said.

(Bloomberg, AFP)



Very briefly:

- Nortel Networks, Hewlett-Packard Co., Intel Corp. and Microsoft Corp. have collaborated on new products aimed at allowing people to listen to their e-mail on the telephone and read their voice mail on the computer.
- Philip Morris Cos. chairman, Geoffrey Bible, received a \$3.5 million bonus for his role in talks that led to the \$206 billion settlement between cigarette makers and 46 states, according to a proxy statement.
- Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and seven other major clothing retailers and manufacturers agreed to settle federal charges that they had not properly disclosed the countries where clothing sold through Internet catalogs was made.
- Venezuela said it planned to cut oil production by a further 75,000 barrels a day.

Bloomberg, AP, NYT

Goldman's Profit Rises

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Goldman Sachs Group LP said Tuesday that its pretax earnings rose 16 percent to \$1.188 billion in the first quarter as its trading division recovered from tough conditions last year and its investment bank performed well.

The Wall Street company said out revenues in the quarter ended Feb. 26 rose to \$2.995 billion from \$2.472 billion in the first quarter of 1998.

Operating expenses increased to \$1.807 billion from \$1.450 billion, the company said.

The gains came as Goldman's trading business turned in a "strong performance," David Viniar, chief financial officer, said in a statement. Mergers advisory, debt underwriting and asset management businesses also "performed well," he said.

Goldman also planned to file documents Tuesday detailing its intent to go public, which would end 130 years as a private partnership.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Tuesday, March 16									
Indexes					Most Active				
Index	Open	High	Low	Close	Index	Open	High	Low	Close
Dow Jones	9524.00	9548.00	9524.00	9548.00	NYSE	2719.00	2724.00	2719.00	2724.00
S&P 500	1024.00	1028.00	1024.00	1028.00	Nasdaq	2050.00	2055.00	2050.00	2055.00
NYSE	2719.00	2724.00	2719.00	2724.00	AMEX	100.00	100.50	100.00	100.50
Nasdaq	2050.00	2055.00	2050.00	2055.00	Dow Jones	9524.00	9548.00	9524.00	9548.00
AMEX	100.00	100.50	100.00	100.50					

Trading Activity									
NYSE					Nasdaq				
Symbol	Open	High	Low	Close	Symbol	Open	High	Low	Close
IBM	120.00	120.50	120.00	120.50	Microsoft	30.00	30.50	30.00	30.50
Apple	40.00	40.50	40.00	40.50	Oracle	20.00	20.50	20.00	20.50
Microsoft	30.00	30.50	30.00	30.50	Amazon	10.00	10.50	10.00	10.50

Dividends									
Company	Per Amt	Rat	Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rat	Pay	Company	Per Amt
Abbey Natl Ad	0.25	3.22	4.4	IBM	1.20	3.21	4.4	Microsoft	3.00
Wells Fargo	0.25	4.13	4.22	Apple	0.75	3.21	4.4	Oracle	2.00
United Natl Ad	0.25	3.21	4.11	Amazon	0.25	3.21	4.11	Amazon	0.25

U.S. Stock Tables Explained									
S&P 500: 1024.00, +4.00, 1028.00, 1024.00, 1028.00									
Dow Jones: 9524.00, +24.00, 9548.00, 9524.00, 9548.00									
NYSE: 2719.00, +5.00, 2724.00, 2719.00, 2724.00									
Nasdaq: 2050.00, +5.00, 2055.00, 2050.00, 2055.00									

Resignations at EU Recharge the Euro

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The euro rose against the dollar Tuesday amid optimism that the resignation of the European Commission would pave the way for bureaucratic and regulatory reforms.

"We got rid of dead wood," said J.P. Neergaard of Den Danske Bank. "The market is seeing this as better than what we had before."

The euro climbed to \$1.0993 in 4 P.M. trading from \$1.0943 on Monday, after falling to \$1.0814 just after the resignations were announced.

The euro also was lifted by comments from the vice president of the Bundesbank, Juergen Stark, who said that

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

the single currency's almost 7 percent decline since January was not dramatic and that an interest rate cut would not solve Europe's economic problems.

"This move is a delayed reaction" to Mr. Stark's comments, said Andy Busch of Bank of Montreal.

The departure of the 20 commissioners who run the European Union's day-to-day affairs came after a five-member panel found evidence of financial mismanagement. The euro rebounded after European central bankers moved to reassure investors about the three-month-old common currency. A member of the European Central Bank's board, Eugenio Domingo Solans, said the resignations would not undermine the euro because commissioners did not make monetary and economic policies but simply executed those policies.

The resignations "won't destabilize the euro, which is dependent on the ECB and is independent of politics," he said.

The dollar fell to 117.695 yen from 117.715 yen, as the Nikkei Stock Average rose for a fifth day out of six amid sentiment that the Japanese economy is recovering. But the dollar slipped to 1.4538 Swiss francs from 1.4643 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6292 from \$1.6233.

(Bloomberg, Market News)

MARKET: Dow Trades Above 10,000 Points for the First Time

Continued from Page 1

vestment in speculative projects slowed economic growth, first in Asia, then elsewhere, and this has placed pressure on all kinds of companies that have found their markets shrinking and prices falling for their goods and services.

Against that backdrop, Edward Yardeni, the chief economist at Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. in New York, said the rising Dow reflected a speculative bubble.

"The good news," he said "is that no one ever knows how high prices will go in a bubble market, and they always go higher than anyone imagined. The bad news is that bubbles inevitably burst."

Mr. Yardeni's prognosticating credentials are good. On Nov. 6, 1995, when the Dow was at 4,814.01, he predicted that it would reach 10,000 by the year 2000. In the very long term, he remains bullish, and in fact he predicted the Dow would reach 15,000 by 2005.

Getting there, however, could be a bumpy ride.

"The market is priced for perfection right now," he said, although he added that a summer rally could take it to 11,000.

But Mr. Yardeni raised questions about corporate earnings, the key factor involved in investors' pricing decisions.

■ Other Indexes Mixed

While the Dow slipped, broader U.S. market indexes were mixed Tuesday, wire services reported. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.90 of a point to 1,306.36 while the Nasdaq composite index rose 7.84 points to close at 2,439.28.

On the New York Stock Exchange, decliners outnumbered advancers by nearly a 4-to-3 ratio.

Merck, which rose 1 1/16 to 85 3/16 after an anti-cholesterol drug received government approval for expanded use, was one of only three Dow stocks to rise more than

a point. American Express fell 2 3/16 to 123 9/16. The credit-card and travel-services company had been among the market's best performers year to date, with a 21 percent gain.

"There's a struggle looking for leadership in the market, and no sector has

emerged," said Bill Alllyn, director of principal trading for Jefferies & Co. "I think we're going to fail a couple times" to get much above 10,000, "and then we could have a 5 percent pullback," he said.

AMR Corp. fell 3/4 to 61 after the parent of American Airlines said its 1999 earnings would be reduced by a pilots' pay dispute last month.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond climbed 18 3/32 points to 96 22/32, pushing the yield down to 5.47 percent from 5.52 percent.

Meanwhile, construction

of new single-family homes rose to the highest level in more than two decades last month while output at the U.S. factories showed unexpected strength.

The Commerce Department reported that construction of single-family homes was up 1.1 percent in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.41 million units, the highest level since December 1978, as the boom in the housing industry continued.

The Federal Reserve reported that output at factories, mines and utilities rose by 0.2 percent in February, led by a jump in the production of appliances and home electronics gear. This was stronger than had been expected.

Many analysts had been looking for output to be unchanged in February, just as it had been in January.

Taken together, the two reports showed that the U.S. economic expansion, its longest in peacetime history, is on track.

(Bloomberg, AP)

DEAL: Renault Offers \$4 Billion for 35% Stake in Japan's Nissan

Continued from Page 1

could in turn provide Nissan with a strong base in Europe, where it currently has little market share, as well as in Latin America.

Mr. Schweitzer was also

attracted by Nissan's line of products.

While Renault derives most of its sales from small and mid-sized passenger cars, which Nissan also builds, the Japanese company also produces sport-utility vehicles,

light trucks and luxury cars.

Renault executives see other potential benefits. They like Nissan's factory in Smyrna, Tennessee, which is one of the world's most modern. And they see opportunities for profits from restructuring Nissan, which builds about 3 million cars a year, currently using 20 separate manufacturing "platforms" to assemble the basic structure of the vehicle. Most other companies have consolidated the process to half that many platforms.

But the dangers and uncertainties are at least as formidable as the attractions. In teaming up with Nissan, Renault would be trying to

direct a company that has long been at the very heart of what used to be called Japan Inc. Although Ford has owned 25 percent of Mazda Motor Corp. for several years, Nissan is a much bigger company and Renault would be seeking much greater management control.

Yet Renault would probably not obtain full control. By obtaining more than 33 percent of Nissan's stock, it would obtain a veto right over major decisions like mergers, acquisitions and new security offerings.

But unless Nissan makes specific legal concessions on management issues, Renault would not have an automatic right to set compensation levels, reshuffle manufacturing or branding strategy or install new management.

"It takes 51 percent to control the board," said Tetsuya Morimoto, an expert in corporate law at the Tokyo office

of White & Case. "Thirty-three percent does not stop the other party from running the business."

Automobile analysts said Tuesday that there was no guarantee that an alliance of the two companies would produce a new powerhouse.

"Nissan is not a strong player, and Renault is not the strongest player in its market either," said Christian Breitsprecher, an automobile analyst at Deutsche Bank.

■ Gallic Pride Rears Up

French commentators are relishing the idea that Renault could win a say in Nissan, Reuters reported from Paris.

Raymond Levy, a former Renault chairman, told French radio on Monday the deal would be sweet revenge after the humiliation of the 1970s and early 1980s when European industry cringed at Japan's apparently unstoppable efficiency.

Renault mastering Nissan would close a chapter of history — Jacques Calver, head of Renault's rival PSA Peugeot Citroen until 1997, for years described Britain as the "aircraft carrier" for Japan's industrial invasion of Europe.

However, analysts say that if Renault does force the link that DaimlerChrysler has spurned, the cultural challenge will be unprecedented.

"You wouldn't naturally assume that the Japanese and the French would make good bedfellows, but it hasn't been tried before," said Nick Snee, auto sector analyst at J.P. Morgan.

INTEREST RATES

Tuesday, March 16

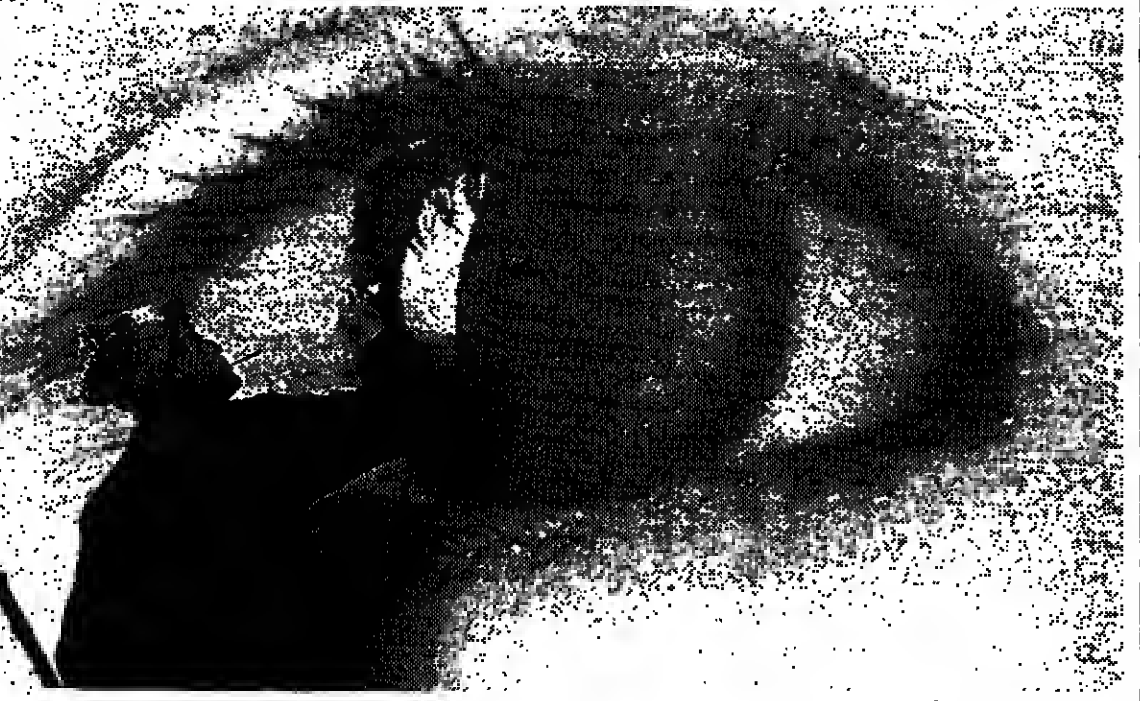
Government Debt									
Country	3-month	6-month	1-year	2-year	3-year	5-year	10-year	30-year	Yield
Britain	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
France	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
Germany	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
Italy	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
Japan	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
Spain	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
United States	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
Yield	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
Source: Bloomberg									

Source: Associated Press

EUROPE

CeBIT Fair Set to Open

More than 7,000 exhibitors are getting ready for the annual CeBIT information technology fair, which opens Thursday in Hannover. On many minds is the threat of system problems as the year 2000 arrives. In the photo at left, Kyungmin Bin is preparing a poster for LG Electronics Co. of South Korea.



Merger Helps Lift Novartis Earnings

Basel, Switzerland — Novartis AG said Tuesday that its profit rose 16 percent in 1998, to 6.06 billion Swiss francs (\$4.13 billion), helped by large cost savings from the pharmaceutical giant and by gains in financial income. Sales in the year rose 2 percent, to 31.7 billion Swiss francs. Novartis said it was reaping the benefits of synergies made possible by the merger of Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz, which formed Novartis in 1996. By the end of 1998, the company had realized cost savings of 1.7 billion Swiss francs, amounting to 89 percent of the planned three-year total and exceeding last year's targets. For the coming year, Novartis said it expected sales growth to continue based on new pharmaceutical products and high investments in marketing and sales.

EURO: An Opportunity for Reform

Continued from Page 11

"The commission will continue operating as a competition watchdog," said Stephen Spinks, a partner with the Brussels practice of the U.S. law firm Coudert Brothers. "I do not expect any problems." Another lawyer pointed out that Karel Van Miert of Belgium, the high-profile commissioner in charge of competition, was not directly implicated in the report. "I would expect the Belgian government to have him reinstated," the lawyer said. Nonetheless, uncertainty about the interim stage between a caretaker commission and a new one could hobble the EU at a time when the trade relations with the United States have hit a new low. Negotiators had been locked in talks ranging from the use of the Concorde airliner in the United States to the import of Chiquita Brands bananas into the EU. The dispute is now before the World Trade Organization. "This is a particularly bad time to have a leadership EU," said Frank Vargo, head of the U.S. Commerce Department's office that oversees foreign compliance with treaties and

trade agreements. "I hope this can be resolved by the Europeans very quickly. It is a very significant time." "There needs to be a rapid decision about who should be nominated to a new commission," said Dick Leonard, an adviser at the Center for European Policy Studies, a Brussels think tank. "Nobody can afford a long power vacuum." The senior currency strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston, Peter von Maydell, said that for the new single currency, the euro, the resignation of the commission was "irrelevant because the commission doesn't have any control of monetary policy." The departure in disgrace of the team of Jacques Santer, the commission president, is likely to complicate difficult negotiations on EU financial strategy, but that is a long-term problem that markets are currently not taking into consideration, Mr. von Maydell said. While only a handful of commissioners were directly implicated in the fraud scandals, other commissioners were prompt to agree that the investigators' findings should lead to a major shuffle. (Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

Private Banking Lifts Credit Suisse

Zurich — Credit Suisse Group on Tuesday posted a 680 percent rise in net profit in 1998 as growth from money management and private banking offset losses in investment banking. The company earned 3.10 billion Swiss francs (\$2.12 billion) last year, up from 397 million francs the previous year, despite a 221 million franc loss by its investment bank, CS First Boston, the top foreign holder of defaulted Russian bonds. Credit Suisse's private banking unit earned 1.67 billion francs in 1998, a 27 percent increase. Profit at Credit Suisse Asset Management rose 58 percent, to 223 million francs. "The results highlight the strengths of the Swiss banking Leviathans," said Philip Crate at Banque Nationale de Paris SA. "Switzerland remains one of the world's favorite playgrounds, and incumbent players profit considerably from this preference." (AP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

Regulators Scrutinize BNP's Offer

PARIS — French regulators were meeting Tuesday to study whether the \$38 billion hostile bid by Banque Nationale de Paris SA for Societe Generale SA and Paribas SA constituted a valid takeover offer under French law. Societe Generale and Paribas argued that the offer was not valid, would "destroy value" for shareholders and would lead to thousands of job losses and the dismantling of Paribas. Executives of the two target companies began canvassing investors and analysts last week in an effort to convince them that their own proposed \$16 billion merger plan was superior to BNP's hostile offer. "Societe Generale will probably propose a better price for Paribas, but BNP can always offer more," said Marc Renaud, a portfolio manager at CCR Actions who said he favored BNP's offer. Societe Generale and Paribas have been relying on a legal argument against the offer, contending that BNP's bid was not valid and therefore should not be considered. "There are too many possible outcomes for shareholders to know what they're voting for," said Pierre Servan-Schreiber, a lawyer at Sullivan & Cromwell who is working for Societe Generale and Paribas. For example, Mr. Servan-Schreiber said, if BNP's offer for Societe Generale were accepted and the offer for Paribas were not, the Societe Generale shareholders would be voting for a three-way merger they were not getting. The difference between BNP's offer and the banks' stock prices have narrowed, indicating that shareholders expect BNP's offer to be accepted eventually. "If the current proposal comes to shareholders, it is clear that BNP will win," said Ian McEwen, a bank analyst at Lehman Brothers. The Societe Generale chief executive, Daniel Bouton, and the Paribas chief executive, Andre Levy-Lang, said this week that the banks had "many options" to respond to the bid and would not be drawn into discussions with BNP while faced with a hostile bid.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
5800	6000	4000
5400	5600	3600
5000	5200	3200
4600	4800	2800
4200	4400	2400
3800	4000	2000
3400	3600	1600
3000	3200	1200
2600	2800	800
2200	2400	400
1800	2000	0
1400	1600	0
1000	1200	0
600	800	0
200	400	0
0	0	0

Very briefly:

- Rhodia SA, a French maker of specialty chemicals, offered 145 pence a share for Albright & Wilson PLC, Britain's biggest maker of phosphates for detergents, valuing the company at £455 million (\$738.6 million), and topping the friendly cash offer made by Albemarle Corp. of the United States.
- Telewest Communications PLC, the British cable company, reported a net loss of £121.9 million (\$197.9 million) in the fourth quarter, widened from £74.9 million a year ago, because of costs connected with acquisitions.
- Austrian Airlines Group's operating profit for 1998 almost doubled, to 1.28 billion schillings (\$101.6 million), as it benefited from acquisitions and rising traffic to Eastern Europe.
- The European Commission cleared the merger of the French companies Sanofi SA and Synthelabo SA, creating Europe's sixth-largest drugs and cosmetics group.
- Coca-Cola Beverages PLC, the world's fourth-largest Coca-Cola bottler, swung to a loss in 1998 of £30.9 million from profit of £18 million in 1997 because of reorganization charges, including the cost of trimming its operations in Ukraine.
- DG Bank AG's operating profit rose 9 percent last year, to 1.16 billion Deutsche marks (\$647.7 million) from 1.06 billion DM a year earlier, as it earned more from managing company share sales, increased its trading profit and reduced bad-loan provisions.
- Terranova Foods PLC, a British chilled-foods maker, rejected a £228.5 million hostile offer from Unigate PLC, a milk producer, saying it undervalued the company.
- Continental AG's profit for 1998 rose 29 percent, to 414 million Deutsche marks, helped by the acquisition of a car-parts unit and by demand for cars and trucks in Europe, its biggest market.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

<div><div>Tuesday, March 16</div><div>Prices in local currencies</div><div>in euros for ERM countries</div><div>High Low Close Prev.</div></div> <div><div>Amsterdam</div><div>ASEX Index: 544.45</div><div>Previous: 536.85</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 18.10</div><div>12.78 18.15 18.08 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Tuesday's 4 P.M.

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

[illegible]

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount	Total
1	Salaries and Wages	10000	
2	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
3	Interest on Loans	2000	
4	Depreciation	1000	
5	Other Income	500	
6	Reserve Fund	1000	
7	Unexpended Balance	1000	
8	Expenses	10000	
9	Salaries and Wages	10000	
10	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
11	Interest on Loans	2000	
12	Depreciation	1000	
13	Other Income	500	
14	Reserve Fund	1000	
15	Unexpended Balance	1000	
16	Expenses	10000	
17	Salaries and Wages	10000	
18	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
19	Interest on Loans	2000	
20	Depreciation	1000	
21	Other Income	500	
22	Reserve Fund	1000	
23	Unexpended Balance	1000	
24	Expenses	10000	
25	Salaries and Wages	10000	
26	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
27	Interest on Loans	2000	
28	Depreciation	1000	
29	Other Income	500	
30	Reserve Fund	1000	
31	Unexpended Balance	1000	
32	Expenses	10000	
33	Salaries and Wages	10000	
34	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
35	Interest on Loans	2000	
36	Depreciation	1000	
37	Other Income	500	
38	Reserve Fund	1000	
39	Unexpended Balance	1000	
40	Expenses	10000	
41	Salaries and Wages	10000	
42	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
43	Interest on Loans	2000	
44	Depreciation	1000	
45	Other Income	500	
46	Reserve Fund	1000	
47	Unexpended Balance	1000	
48	Expenses	10000	
49	Salaries and Wages	10000	
50	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
51	Interest on Loans	2000	
52	Depreciation	1000	
53	Other Income	500	
54	Reserve Fund	1000	
55	Unexpended Balance	1000	
56	Expenses	10000	
57	Salaries and Wages	10000	
58	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
59	Interest on Loans	2000	
60	Depreciation	1000	
61	Other Income	500	
62	Reserve Fund	1000	
63	Unexpended Balance	1000	
64	Expenses	10000	
65	Salaries and Wages	10000	
66	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
67	Interest on Loans	2000	
68	Depreciation	1000	
69	Other Income	500	
70	Reserve Fund	1000	
71	Unexpended Balance	1000	
72	Expenses	10000	
73	Salaries and Wages	10000	
74	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
75	Interest on Loans	2000	
76	Depreciation	1000	
77	Other Income	500	
78	Reserve Fund	1000	
79	Unexpended Balance	1000	
80	Expenses	10000	
81	Salaries and Wages	10000	
82	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
83	Interest on Loans	2000	
84	Depreciation	1000	
85	Other Income	500	
86	Reserve Fund	1000	
87	Unexpended Balance	1000	
88	Expenses	10000	
89	Salaries and Wages	10000	
90	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
91	Interest on Loans	2000	
92	Depreciation	1000	
93	Other Income	500	
94	Reserve Fund	1000	
95	Unexpended Balance	1000	
96	Expenses	10000	
97	Salaries and Wages	10000	
98	Grants-in-Aid	5000	
99	Interest on Loans	2000	
100	Depreciation	1000	
101	Other Income	500	
102	Reserve Fund	1000	
103	Unexpended Balance	1000	

一、本會為維護會員權益，特訂定本會章程，凡加入本會者，均須遵守。
 二、本會之宗旨，在於促進會員間之交流與合作，共同發展，並為社會公益服務。
 三、本會之組織，由會員大會、理事會及監事會組成，各負其責。
 四、本會之經費，由會員繳納會費及社會捐助，並由理事會負責管理。
 五、本會之活動，包括學術研討、文化講座、社會服務等，旨在提升會員素質及社會影響力。
 六、本會之榮譽，由理事會根據會員之貢獻，頒發獎章或證書，以資鼓勵。
 七、本會之修改，須經會員大會三分之二以上多數通過，並報社會局備案。
 八、本會之解散，須經會員大會三分之二以上多數通過，並報社會局核准。
 九、本會之附屬，包括本會之辦事處、圖書館、展覽室等，均應遵守本會章程。
 十、本會之其他事項，均依本會章程之規定辦理。

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一、本會之宗旨，在於研究學術，促進教育，以發揚中華文化，而利於世界。
 二、本會之組織，由會員組成，會員之資格，由本會章程規定之。
 三、本會之經費，由會員捐助，或由社會募集，或由政府撥款。
 四、本會之辦事處，設於上海，並在各埠設有分會。
 五、本會之出版物，包括書籍、報章、雜誌等，以弘揚學術，普及教育。
 六、本會之活動，包括講座、展覽、比賽等，以增進知識，陶冶情操。
 七、本會之榮譽，由本會頒發，以表彰對學術教育有貢獻者。
 八、本會之附屬機構，包括圖書館、實驗室等，以提供研究之便利。
 九、本會之宗旨，應隨時適應社會之需要，而不斷改進。
 十、本會之組織，應保持獨立，不受任何勢力之干涉。

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Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close						DAILY CHANGES	
The 150 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.						The Associated Press.	
	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Change	Stock	Sales
Am. Can.	228	14 1/8	13 3/4	13 3/4	+1/8	Alcoa	439
Am. Oil	237	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	0	Am. Chem.	201
Am. Tel.	265	17	17	17	+1/8	Am. Gas	201
Am. Sugar	237	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	0	Am. Int'l.	201
Am. Tobacco	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Lumber	201
Am. Water	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Oil	201
Am. Wire	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Paper	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
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Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
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Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
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Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
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Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
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Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
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Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
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Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Glass	201
Am. Nickel	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Cement	201
Am. Tin	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Brick	201
Am. Potash	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Coal	201
Am. Soda	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Iron Ore	201
Am. Zinc	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Steel	201
Am. Iron	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Textile	201
Am. Lead	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am. Rubber	201
Am. Copper	237	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	0	Am	

[illegible]

1. 姓名: 李德全
 2. 性别: 男
 3. 年龄: 45
 4. 籍贯: 湖南长沙
 5. 职业: 教师
 6. 婚姻状况: 已婚
 7. 子女情况: 一子一女
 8. 健康状况: 良好
 9. 教育程度: 大学
 10. 政治面貌: 中共党员
 11. 工作单位: 长沙市第一中学
 12. 住址: 长沙市岳麓区岳麓山街道
 13. 联系电话: 13808888888
 14. 电子邮箱: lidequan@163.com
 15. 身份证号: 430102197805151234
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 18. 体重: 70kg
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 20. 学位: 学士
 21. 专业: 教育学
 22. 毕业院校: 湖南师范大学
 23. 入职时间: 2005年9月
 24. 职称: 中学高级教师
 25. 年度考核: 优秀
 26. 奖惩记录: 无
 27. 培训经历: 参加过多次教师培训
 28. 科研成果: 发表过几篇论文
 29. 社会兼职: 无
 30. 其他说明: 无不良嗜好

Hips	Low	Latent	Chrg	Stock	Sales	Low	Lat
100%	100%	100%	100%	Amoco	1584	120	120
95%	95%	95%	95%	Amoco	1584	120	120
90%	90%	90%	90%	Amoco	1584	120	120
85%	85%	85%	85%	Amoco	1584	120	120
80%	80%	80%	80%	Amoco	1584	120	120
75%	75%	75%	75%	Amoco	1584	120	120
70%	70%	70%	70%	Amoco	1584	120	120
65%	65%	65%	65%	Amoco	1584	120	120
60%	60%	60%	60%	Amoco	1584	120	120
55%	55%	55%	55%	Amoco	1584	120	120
50%	50%	50%	50%	Amoco	1584	120	120
45%	45%	45%	45%	Amoco	1584	120	120
40%	40%	40%	40%	Amoco	1584	120	120
35%	35%	35%	35%	Amoco	1584	120	120
30%	30%	30%	30%	Amoco	1584	120	120
25%	25%	25%	25%	Amoco	1584	120	120
20%	20%	20%	20%	Amoco	1584	120	120
15%	15%	15%	15%	Amoco	1584	120	120
10%	10%	10%	10%	Amoco	1584	120	120
5%	5%	5%	5%	Amoco	1584	120	120
0%	0%	0%	0%	Amoco	1584	120	120

[illegible][illegible]

Change	Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Change
+	IBM	22		94	94	0
+	IBM Corp II	22		94	94	0
+	IBM Corp III	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore II	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore III	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore IV	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore V	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore VI	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore VII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore VIII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore IX	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore X	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XI	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XIII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XIV	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XV	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XVI	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XVII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XVIII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XIX	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XX	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XXI	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XXII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XXIII	22		94	94	0
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+	Seacore XLIII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XLIV	22		94	94	0
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+	Seacore XLVI	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XLVII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XLVIII	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore XLIX	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore L	22		94	94	0
+	Seacore LI	22		94	94	0
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+	Seacore LV	22		94	94	0
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+	Seacore LXXXXXXXIX	22		9		

AMEX

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

[illegible]**NYSE**

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

Month	High	Low	Stock	Div Yld	P/E	100-Day	High	Low	Percent Change
12	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
11	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
10	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
9	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
8	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
7	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
6	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
5	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
4	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
3	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
2	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00
1	100.00	95.00	100.00	1.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	95.00	5.00

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Second Job Profitability

But economic reforms have failed, due in part to insider trading, widespread embezzlement at

The post-Communist reforms of former Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus virtually ignored the role of

Many block trades on the exchange today take place among market insiders at prices that are not disclosed. Weak penalties and little enforcement mean few market players obey the rules.

That means more Czech companies will look beyond Prague for capital.

"Small and medium issues will remain on local stock exchanges, and Prague may be one of them," he said, but "only if the Czech market adopts European standards."

And in Europe, stock-exchange leaders are quietly exploring the formation of a pan-European market that would capitalize on the nascent

business, officials there said.

"The Montreal exchange is already the most successful futures marketplace in Canada and one of the

While the Toronto and Montreal exchanges would continue to be policed by regulators in their home provinces, the new market for small-

Mr. Fleming said he thought the outcome was more likely to be closer collaboration among the provincial watchdogs.

• Taiwan's deputy minister of finance, Yen Ching-chang, said tax rules would be revised to allow the cabinet to adjust the stock transaction tax within a range of 0.15 percent to 0.45 percent, the Central press agency reported. The tax currently is 0.3 percent. The change is part of a government proposal to give the cabinet authority to adjust the transaction tax to heat up or cool down the stock market.

March 16, 1999
T/EUN/funds.html

The data in the list above is the A.U.V. supplied by the fund groups to Standard & Poor's Microcap SA. It is collected and reformatted into the list before being transmitted to the HT. Standard & Poor's Microcap and the HT do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the list, the data or the performance of files of the Fund Groups and will not be liable for the list, the data of Fund Group to any extent. The list is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by the HT or Standard & Poor's Microcap to sell securities or investments of any kind. Investments can fall as well as rise. Past performance does not guarantee future success. It is advisable to seek advice from a qualified independent advisor before investing.

WORLD ROUNDUP

West Indies Wins

CRICKET The West Indies beat Australia by 10 wickets Tuesday in the second test in Jamaica.

Resuming at 157 runs for eight wickets on the fourth day, Australia made another 20 runs to avoid an innings defeat. But the West Indies scored the three runs it needed to win the first over of its second innings.

It was the West Indies' first victory in seven tests and avenged a humiliating defeat in last week's first test.

Nehemiah Perry, a spin bowler making his test debut, took five Australian wickets for 70 runs in the second innings. (Reuters)

Wood Could Miss Season

BASEBALL Kerry Wood, the National League Rookie of the Year, is expected to miss this season. The Chicago Cubs pitcher, who last May struck out 20 batters against Houston, damaged the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow during his spring training debut against Anaheim on Saturday.

The Cubs said Tuesday that more tests were needed on the 21-year-old right-hander. However, they assume he will need surgery and will not be able to pitch until next year. (AP)

Flutie Agrees to Terms

FOOTBALL Doug Flutie, the veteran quarterback, reached agreement on a contract extension with Buffalo that will give the Bills two \$3 million quarterback contracts. Flutie was expected to sign the four-year, \$22 million deal — including \$6 million up front.

The San Diego Chargers agreed to the terms of a trade to acquire quarterback Jim Harbaugh from Baltimore, coopting on Harbaugh reworking his contract and the Ravens acquiring quarterback Scott Mitchell from the Detroit Lions.

The deal would likely keep Ryan Leaf on the bench in his second season to learn from Harbaugh, who will be playing in his 13th season. (AP)

Arsenal Adds Teenager

SOCCER Arsenal, the English Premier League champion, has added teenager prodigy to its collection.

Following the controversial signings of two 15-year-olds — Jermaine Pennant from Notts County and Jeremie Aladiere from the French School of Excellence — the latest arrival at the Highbury academy is Moritz Volz, 16, a German youth international.

The midfielder was on the books of Bundesliga club Schalke, but he joined Arsenal for a reported £150,000 a year (\$244,000) starting next season. The transfer has angered Bernd Stober, the coach of the German under-15 team, which Volz captained. Stober said: "It's an abuse by a professional club — they try to grab players younger and younger." (AFP)

IOC Gathers to Address the Scandal — and Its Fallout

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The five rings still have pride of place in this lakeside city that has long billed itself as "la capitale Olympique." The Olympic flag is out at half staff as it flaps in the breeze in front of luxury hotels and along public thoroughfares. Children still play in a park named for Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the International Olympic Committee, who moved its headquarters here from France in 1915, during World War I.

But this week hardly represents business as usual for the IOC or its peaceable Swiss home. On Wednesday and Thursday, the IOC will meet in an emergency session that was called by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, in an attempt to address the fallout from the bribery scandal that has buffeted his organization since December and forced open the door to reform.

This 108th session will be unlike any other in IOC history, and the emotionally charged agenda will feature votes on the expulsion of six IOC members, approval of a new method for selecting the 2006 Winter Olympics host city, approval of the creation of an independent ethics commission and, perhaps, a vote of confidence in Samaranch. As usual, the meetings are held behind closed doors.

"I don't know if there will be any vote of confidence," said Dick Pound, an IOC vice president. "The real vote of confidence is to do what we have to do here."

Samaranch pushed through a change in the IOC rules in 1995 to increase the age limit so he could run for a fourth term. But the term he maneuvered for so cleverly has turned out to be the most traumatic of his presidency, calling his leadership into question and exposing the ethical failings of a committee that relies on its autonomy and its perks.

Samaranch's term ends in 2001, but there have been calls for his resignation from former and current athletes, politicians, sports officials and editorial pages around the world. He has resisted the pressure, and if he does ask for a vote of confidence, it is expected to come early on Wednesday after he addresses the session. Because the majority of the members were named to the IOC during Samaranch's tenure, it would appear that he runs little risk of losing such a gamble.

Though the Associated Press reported on Monday that Samaranch believed some members of the IOC's executive board were working behind the scenes to force him to step down, one board member, Kevan Gosper, said Tuesday that "the board's preoccupation is to get through the week in support of the president and start reforms that will turn our reputation around."

Four IOC members have resigned because of their roles in the bribery scandal, which has centered on inducements offered by the team from Salt Lake City that bid successfully for the 2002 Winter Olympics. An IOC committee headed by Pound has recommended that six other members be expelled: Agustín Arroyo of Ecuador, Zein Abidin Ahmed Abdel Gadir of Sudan, Jean-Claude Ganga of Congo, Lamine Keita of Mali, Sergio Santander Fanti of Chile and Paul Vallwork of Western Samoa.

The IOC will pass judgment on those six men on Wednesday, and there is an outside chance that the case of executive board member Kim Un Yong of South Korea could also be considered by the general assembly.

Kim was given "the most serious of warnings" by Pound's commission, partly because of arrangements made by Salt Lake City officials on behalf of his son, John Kim. In the report, the commission said it was unable to conclusively determine that the father knew of these arrangements but that "should the allegations be fully established" he should be expelled.

"There is still an open case," said IOC vice-president Anita De Frantz of the United States on Tuesday. "I don't know if it would be prepared by tomorrow."

Each of the six facing expulsion will be given 20 minutes to defend himself

before the general membership, and then a separate vote will be taken on each case. The voting will be by secret ballot if at least a quarter of the members request it. A two-thirds majority vote is required to expel a member, and though there are officially 110 IOC members, only 91 with voting power are expected in Lausanne.

Those facing expulsion may not vote. Ganga has been the most vocal of the accused, appearing on Swiss television to denounce the work of Pound's commission as "a parody of justice" because it was too hasty. "Dick Pound spent only two days in Salt Lake City," Ganga said.

Ganga is accused of accepting medical treatment, travel perquisites and direct payments from Salt Lake City officials that exceeded \$200,000. But he claims the direct payments he received were used to promote sports at home and that he is being targeted because he led the African boycott of the 1976 Olympics in Montreal and because he had requested more detailed information about the lucrative television deals struck by Pound on behalf of the IOC.

Pound, a lawyer by profession, said "none of these investigations are politically motivated" and that he was satisfied with the thoroughness and impartiality of his commission's work.

"As a lawyer I know that if you have

a case with bad facts, you attack the law," he said. "If you have a case with bad law, you attack the facts, and if you have a case that's bad in fact and law, you attack the prosecutor."

After proposing in January that the host city for the 2006 Winter Olympics be chosen by a small committee composed partly of nonmembers instead of by the full membership, Samaranch and the executive board have retrenched in the face of widespread opposition within the IOC.

Their new proposal calls for a 16-member committee composed of athletes, sports officials and IOC members to be chosen on the day of the vote. That group, relying on information from the IOC evaluation commission, would narrow the field to two. The full membership would then vote on a winner later in the day. Visits to candidate cities by IOC members not on the evaluation commission would still be banned.

Reforming the way IOC members are chosen by creating term limits or an outside electoral process is also being considered, but Pound said that the issue needed to be studied further, perhaps by a soon-to-be-created reform commission, before a recommendation could be made later this year.

"We have every hope that we will have whatever the new system is in place as we enter the new millennium," Pound said.

Pride, Passion and Wasted Talent

Facing Elimination, Inter Squabbles When It Should Be Fighting

By Rob Hughes
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — When the giants of Europe lock horns in win-or-hust competition, when the fanatical masses fill the San Siro in Milan hoping to transmit the Houdini spirit into their troubled Inter team, no player should hide, no talent should be lost to the cause.

Alas poor Inter. The club starts the second leg of the UEFA Champions League on Wednesday two goals down to Manchester United. To overcome that,

Champions Cup with Juventus and Dortmund.

Sousa, sensing perhaps that Lucese might have favored others, said the team had no game plan, that it was useless to put 11 individuals on the field and hope for cohesion. "We are hopeless," Sousa reportedly said, "we stand no chance against United." He certainly has no chance. Lucese had him removed from camp on Tuesday.

All is not lost. Inter has won every Champions League encounter at San Siro this season, some by margins bigger than it needs to eliminate Manchester. Ronaldo, driven to risk his sore knees after months spent more on the treatment table than the field, says he is ready to sacrifice himself, to do his duty, to set aside all the doubts — mental as well as physical — that have dogged him since that eerie World Cup final in the Stade de France last July.

"This is the one game that can rescue our season," Ronaldo said. "I am excited by the thought of such a big crowd on Wednesday and ready to go to work for my club."

The other players say their team is complete only when Ronaldo makes his rare presence felt and he, half fit, still damaged by the aftermath of his reported convulsion before he flopped in that final, is unconformably aware of his role as talisman. It seems ever thus with Italian teams, as it was 20 years ago with Luigi Riva, so now with Ronaldo. His colleagues hope through him.

This dangerous fixation suggests make or break in more senses than one. Ronaldo could be supported by the mercurial Roberto Baggio and the battering Ivan Zamorano. Or the coach could trust in youth, and use Nicola Ventola or the largely untapped Andrea Fazio.

Emphasize Inter's scores, because the weight is overwhelmingly on them.

United has match winners, one flash of Dwight Yorke, one dash of Andy Cole, one free kick from David Beckham could rip the home hopes asunder.

But with the premium on goals, could it be that the overlooked Alvaro Recoba will turn out to be the player Inter will need? He must spend his 23rd birthday on Wednesday as an onlooker. Yet he belongs to the Inter roster, his form is sparkling, but he has one foot inside San Siro, another in Venice.

Inter deemed Recoba, a Uruguayan, surplus to requirements. They lent him to Venezia for whom he scored a memorable hat-trick against Fiorentina last weekend. Recoba looked like a cobra. Everything depends on goals, goals, goals — yet a player owned by Inter is scoring them for someone else. His absence could cost Inter the earth.

Manchester United, if it prevails, would be likely to go into a semifinal featuring Bayern Munich, surely, and with greater degrees of guesswork. Dynamo Kiev and Juventus. The tournament is there for the winning, and those who want it most must attack. To mullay in form striker is to invite the wrath of the fans, the presidents, the history books.

Rob Hughes is chief sports writer of The Times of London.



NO ESCAPE — Paolo Vanoli, of Parma, left, tackling Ali Bernabia of Bordeaux on Tuesday in a UEFA Cup match in Parma. Parma won, 6-0, to advance to the semifinals, 7-2, on aggregate. Herman Crespa and Eurico Chiesa scored twice, and Juan Veron and Abel Balbo, once each.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION BASEBALL	W	L	P	GB
Atlanta Braves	16	5	242	0
Los Angeles Angels	15	7	236	1
New York Yankees	13	9	291	3 1/2
Philadelphia Phillies	12	9	271	4
Pittsburgh Pirates	11	10	267	5
San Francisco Giants	10	11	258	6
St. Louis Cardinals	9	12	248	7 1/2
Tampa Bay Rays	8	13	238	8 1/2
Washington Nationals	7	14	228	9 1/2
Colorado Rockies	6	15	218	10 1/2
Chicago White Sox	5	16	208	11 1/2
San Diego Padres	4	17	198	12 1/2
Seattle Mariners	3	18	188	13 1/2
Texas Rangers	2	19	178	14 1/2
Minnesota Twins	1	20	168	15 1/2
San Jose Giants	0	21	158	16 1/2

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Hawks	16	5	.762	0
Los Angeles Lakers	15	7	.682	1 1/2
New York Knicks	13	9	.591	3 1/2
Philadelphia 76ers	12	9	.571	4
Pittsburgh Pirates	11	10	.524	5
San Francisco Giants	10	11	.476	6
St. Louis Cardinals	9	12	.429	7 1/2
Tampa Bay Rays	8	13	.385	8 1/2
Washington Nationals	7	14	.333	9 1/2
Colorado Rockies	6	15	.286	10 1/2
Chicago White Sox	5	16	.238	11 1/2
San Diego Padres	4	17	.190	12 1/2
Seattle Mariners	3	18	.143	13 1/2
Texas Rangers	2	19	.095	14 1/2
Minnesota Twins	1	20	.048	15 1/2
San Jose Giants	0	21	.000	16 1/2

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Alabama	15	5	.750	—	
Los Angeles	12	8	.600	3	
Atlanta	12	9	.571	3½	MA
Buffalo	12	9	.571	3½	
Cleveland	9	10	.474	5½	Tennessee 69-
San Diego	7	12	.368	7½	Virginia Tech 7
Charlotte	6	14	.300	9	Duke 66, SL Ja
Chicago	6	15	.286	9½	MA

WESTERN CONFERENCE
MINNESOTA DUMPS

NIT TOURNAMENT

Minnesota	13	9	.591	5	Purple 33, Ash
Los Angeles	8	15	.348	10 1/2	Yankee Tech 85
San Diego	6	16	.273	12	White 85
San Francisco	4	18	.182	14	White 85
PACIFIC DIVISION					
Portland	17	4	.810	—	LSU 74, Notre
A. Lakers	16	7	.696	2	UCLA 87, Kent
Seattle	11	9	.550	5 1/2	
Trenton	11	10	.524	6	
Sanramento	11	12	.476	7	

HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Hawks	16	5	.762	0
Los Angeles Lakers	15	7	.682	1 1/2
New York Knicks	13	9	.591	3 1/2
Philadelphia 76ers	12	9	.571	4
Pittsburgh Pirates	11	10	.524	5
San Francisco Giants	10	11	.476	6
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San Diego Padres	4	17	.190	12 1/2
Seattle Mariners	3	18	.143	13 1/2
Texas Rangers	2	19	.095	14 1/2
Minnesota Twins	1	20	.048	15 1/2
San Jose Giants	0	21	.000	16 1/2

CRICKET

Rebounds: Philadelphia 63 (Lynch 20), Lando 62 (O.Grant 10). Assists: Philadelphia 15 (Iversen, Snow, Lynch 4), Lando 14 (J.Armstrong 6).	New Jersey Pittsburgh Philadelphia N.Y. Rangers N.Y. Islanders
New York 30 24 28 24-108	
Brooklyn 25 26 22 29-102	
Y.Y.: Sprewell 7-14 12-14 28, Houston 9-14	
22; Mc Allon 11-22 4-5 29, Del Negro 7-10	
16. Rebounds: N.Y. 43 (Dudley 11), M2-	

GOLF

San Francisco Giants	16	5	.762	0
Los Angeles Lakers	15	7	.682	1 1/2
New York Knicks	13	9	.591	3 1/2
Philadelphia 76ers	12	9	.571	4
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St. Louis Cardinals	9</			

TENNIS

36	29	17	29	—111
32	26	29	18	—105
Abbot-Ward	7	4-8-20		
11-13	0-2-23	Mills	9-14-0	
Sacramento	49	(Divoc 8)		
52	(Marshall 14)	Assists		
(Webber, Divoc 6)	Golden			

7).

First Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Second Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Third Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Fourth Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Fifth Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Sixth Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Seventh Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
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Eighteenth Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Nineteenth Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Twentieth Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Twenty-first Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Twenty-second Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Twenty-third Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
Twenty-fourth Period: New York, N.Y. Rangers
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SPORTS

New Middle Class Alters Face of College Tourney

Some NBA-Depleted Powerhouses Fade Early

By Joe Drape
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Long before anyone discovered that Gonzaga was a small Catholic school in Spokane, Wash., before anyone was welcomed to Wally's World by a sweet-shooting 6-foot-8-inch forward, before Southwest Missouri State got a ticket to a regional semifinal in New Jersey, a coach from down on Tobacco Road offered a couple of predictions about the 1998-99 college basketball season.

It was October and Mike Krzyzewski, the Duke coach, was talking about how the college game had changed in the last few years. He and his colleagues were not just recruiting against each other, but against the National Basketball Association. That was because more high school players went straight to the pros, or treated the colleges as they once did prep schools.

The players stop in the Atlantic Coast or other conferences for a year or two to work on their crossover dribbles. Krzyzewski saw the early exodus of super talents depleting the number of elite teams and diminishing the level of play while at the same time bringing greater parity to college basketball.

Look at which teams advanced over the weekend to the Round of 16 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament and it is clear Krzyzewski's theory holds. The No. 1-seeded teams all advanced: Connecticut in the West, Auburn in the South, Michigan State in the Midwest and Duke in the East.

But three No. 2 teams, two No. 3 teams and three No. 4 teams have been eliminated by college basketball's new middle class. A record five double-digit seeded teams advanced two rounds: No. 13 Oklahoma, No. 12 Southwest Missouri State and three No. 10s, Purdue, Gonzaga and Miami of Ohio.

The Sooners earned their way to the Midwest Regional semifinals with two poised and gritty performances. But they and Weber State, which bounced No. 3 North Carolina before losing to Florida in overtime, best illustrate how early exits to the NBA can bring an elite team back to the masses.

What if Mike Bibby had returned for his junior year to run Arizona's offense? Or if Antawn Jamison and Vince Carter remained to man the Tar Heels' blocks? Both teams may still have lost, but it is a good bet the games

would have been played differently. There is still plenty of star power left in the college ranks, even if it shines from unfamiliar sectors.

Before the tournament, only NBA scouts and hoops junkies knew about the world of skills Miami of Ohio's Wally Szczerbiak possessed. But after lighting up Washington for 43 points and saving the game with a blocked shot on defense, then turning 11 shot attempts into 24 points and a victory over No. 2 Utah, Wally's World went national.

The rest of the Redhawks were pretty good, too, and showed some tournament truisms remain infallible: a solid cast can jump on the back of one terrific player and run pretty deep in the tournament. Remember, Danny Manning and a no-name hunch of Kansas Jayhawks cut down the national championship nets in 1988.

The Zags from Gonzaga showed what a well-coached team with a fierce will to win can do. They outmuscled one of the nation's highest and most physical teams and ousted No. 2-seeded Stanford. And Southwest Missouri State Coach Steve Alford, one of college basketball's greatest shooters in his days at Indiana, demonstrated with his Bears that he listened to Bobby Knight's lectures on defense.

The other observation Krzyzewski had back in preseason is even more pertinent heading into the regional semifinals. He said he believed this edition of the Blue Devils would compete for the national championship. They were among his most talented ever, which is saying a lot from a coach who has been to the Final Four seven times and won two national championships.

Only UConn can approach Duke's talent level, and the Huskies' list of super talents goes only two deep, Richard Hamilton and Khalid El-Amin.

There is still quite a bit of ground for the new middle class to cover before they reach elite status. But Krzyzewski knows the more things change in college basketball, at least one thing stays the same.

"I think the closer you get to having a chance to win a national championship, the harder it gets," he said Monday. "This is not the regular season; it's totally different. People believe in miracles in March."

The 16 teams remaining are probably going to need one to get by Duke.



Isaiah Rider, a Portland guard, flying past Hot Rod Williams of the Mavericks to score on a layup in Denver.

Giving Up on the Coaches

Grizzlies Struggle, So Hill Could Follow Calipari

The Associated Press

John Calipari is gone in New Jersey. Brian Hill, the Vancouver coach, could be next.

"Right now, I think we could go out with 12 players, without the coaches, and do a better job without them," Lee Mayberry, a Vancouver guard, said Monday night after the Grizzlies lost their 12th in a row, 110-84, to the Denver Nuggets.

Earlier in the day, the Nets relieved Calipari of his duties following a 3-17 start. Assistant

Trail Blazers 106, Mavericks 91 In Dallas, Isaiah Rider scored a season-high 30 points, 23 in the first half, as Portland won for the 10th time in 11 games.

Rider scored only 3 points in an overtime victory Saturday over the lowly Los Angeles Clippers.

"You don't want to have two games like that in a row," he said. "I was determined not to let that happen. I went into the Clipper game lackadaisical. I just wasn't ready to play."

Jazz 90, Timberwolves 83 Karl Malone had 17 points and a season-high 13 rebounds helping Utah hang on in Minneapolis after allowing a 19-point lead.

Waggle 74, Pacers 75 Darrell Armstrong stole an inbound pass with 3.3 seconds remaining and dribbled half the length of the court for a buzzer-beating layup against Philadelphia.

The Magic improved to 11-1 at home despite shooting 28.6 percent from the field.

Knicks 108, Bucks 102 Latrell Sprewell scored a season-high 28 points. Allan Houston had 22 and Larry Johnson 21 as New York won in Milwaukee.

Raptors 89, Hornets 82 In Toronto, Doug Christie had 18 points as the Raptors snapped a two-game losing streak and dropped Charlotte to 2-3 under new coach Paul Silas.

Kings 111, Warriors 105 In Sacramento, Chris Webber had 20 points and six other Kings players scored in double figures.

The game was decided at the foul line, where the Kings went 24-for-40 and the Warriors were just 5-for-7.

NBA Roundup

coaches Johnny Davis, Jack Haley and Kenny Gamison also were fired. Don Casey will take over the team on an interim basis.

As for Hill, the watch is on. His Grizzlies have not won since Feb. 23 against the Lakers — a victory that signaled the end of Del Harris's reign in Los Angeles.

"I'm not worried about my job, I'm worrying about getting this team ready to play," Hill said. "We have to examine what we are doing as coaches."

Antonio McDyess scored 21 points as the Nuggets ended a seven-game losing streak.

"To me, it was an absolute embarrassment not to compete at the beginning of the game," Hill said.

"It's easy to blame the coaches and I don't think it is the coaching," said Shafer Abdur-Rahim, a Vancouver forward. "We aren't playing together and it showed in this game."

DiMaggio and Son: Estranged, Private, Difficult

By Greg Garber
Herald Tribune Service

A MID THE typical huzz of a baseball card show some years ago, a man thrust a copy of Sport magazine in front of Joe DiMaggio.

The magazine was born in September 1946, and the very first cover featured the Yankee Clipper and his 5-year-old son, Joseph Paul DiMaggio Jr. They both wear Yankees caps and radiant smiles.

DiMaggio looked down at that cover and frowned slightly. Still, he was about to put pen to paper when the man, pointing to the kid, said, "Hey, do you know who that is?"

DiMaggio stiffened. "Of course, I know who it is," he said angrily, pushing the magazine away. The man didn't get his autograph.

"There were two subjects that were taboo with Joe: Marilyn Monroe and Joe Jr.," said Barry Halper, the pre-eminent baseball collector, who witnessed the incident and knew DiMaggio for 27 years. "In all the time I knew him, he never said a word about either one. You knew not to ask."

On Thursday, at San Francisco's Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, where DiMaggio received his first communion, his only son helped carry his father's casket after the funeral service. Joe Jr., gray-haired at 57, had been estranged from DiMaggio for years. He hadn't talked to his father in more than two years and didn't go to Florida while the former New York Yankee star, 84, battled lung cancer.

In the end, however, the son helped bear the father to his final resting place, Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, just south of San Francisco. It was appropriate in some measure, for the son has borne the burden of his father's name all of his difficult life. Their conflict has the classic markings of so many sour relationships between parents and children.

Beyond their names, the two men shared a notorious love of privacy. In recent years, Joe Jr.'s only known oo-the-record conversation was with "Inside Edition," the tabloid television magazine. In an interview broadcast Feb. 11, Joe Jr. explained why he never saw his ailing father in Florida.

"You know, I never got the words, 'Come now, or I would've been there in a flash,'" Joe Jr. said. "I love him, and just all of the things that are felt, but never said, between people. When he wants me there, I'll be there."

The call must not have come.

Joe Sr. was celebrated as an athlete of style and grace and class.

Joe Jr. grew up surrounded by glamour and attention and attended the prestigious Lawrenceville School in New Jersey and Yale University.

Years later, something drew Joe Jr. to Martinez, California, east of Oakland, where his father was born. When "Inside Edition" aired its story last month, Joe Jr. was living in a trailer, working in a junkyard.

"What is Joe DiMaggio's son supposed to do?" he asked. He described himself as "just a free spirit. No commitments. The first of the month rolls around, and I have no payments to make."

There were times when he almost seemed to revel in the contrary nature of his life.

"My lifestyle," he once told a reporter, "is diametrically opposed to my father's."

In 1941, Joe DiMaggio produced one of the greatest and enduring feats in sports. The Yankees center fielder had a 56-game hitting streak. That same year, he also produced his only son.

DiMaggio had met Dorothy Arnold, an actress, who both appeared in the movie "Manhattan Merry-Go-Round" in 1939. They were married later that year at the same twin-spired church on Washington Square where DiMaggio grew up worshipping and from which he was buried.

Joseph Paul DiMaggio Jr. was born in San Francisco. Arnold retired from acting to be a mother and a wife, but the marriage ended in divorce after three years.

In 1951, DiMaggio's last year with the Yankees, he saw a picture of Marilyn Monroe in a newspaper and asked a friend in Hollywood to fix them up on a blind date. For three years, they had a not-so-private love affair.

DiMaggio married Monroe in January 1954, and she moved into the San Francisco home that DiMaggio had originally bought for his parents.

There, Joe Jr. lived with two of the biggest cultural icons of our time. Monroe's relationship with her stepson blossomed and would last the rest of her life.

The marriage, however, did not go as well. Barely nine months after they were married, DiMaggio and Monroe were divorced. DiMaggio had now been married twice for a total of four years.

As a baseball player, he was a perfectionist.

According to some who knew him, that was DiMaggio's intense approach in his personal life. He was often curt, even cold — and not just with autograph-seekers.

Joe Jr. enrolled at Yale in 1960 and played freshman football. But that is the last trace of him. He quit, apparently, to join the Marines.

In fact, as a 21-year-old private in 1962, Joe Jr. was one of the last people to speak to Monroe, who laughed repeatedly in a phone call hours before her death. That last night, she tried to reach Joe Sr., but was unsuccessful.

"If anything was amiss, I wasn't aware of it," Joe Jr. told "Inside Edition." "She sounded like Marilyn."

Monroe's death briefly brought father and son closer. But it did not last.

Dom DiMaggio, the former Boston Red Sox outfielder, said he found his nephew to be "a problem" when he worked for him. "I do know Joe has gone to bat and helped him out numerous times," Dom said. "Beyond that, it's kind of a mystery. I do not know what happened between them."

By the mid-1960s, Joe Jr. had drifted out of his father's life. He got married to an older woman, who had two girls, Kathie and Paula, from a previous union. The marriage ended in divorce.

And though the daughters were not blood relations to Joe Sr., he came to take immense pleasure in them. He called them his granddaughters.

Joe Jr. kicked around out West. He lived in a trailer in Nevada for some years before winding up back in California. He made local headlines in 1995 when he was arrested for operating a bicycle under the influence of alcohol. He drove into a van at 1:25 in the morning and sustained a broken leg.

In the television interview, the closest Joe Jr. came to bitterness was his comment that his famous upbringing was "a cross to bear."

When Joe Sr. died on Monday in Florida, 3,000 miles (5,000 kilometers) from California, there were five people at his bedside: his brother Dominic, two longtime friends and his two nonblood granddaughters, Kathie and Paula.

At the funeral, their husbands, Roger Stein and James Hamra, were pallbearers. Reportedly, the granddaughters were generously remembered in DiMaggio's will.

Joe Jr. was not quite as fortunate. He will receive a \$20,000-a-year trust fund.

Outside New Jersey, Devils Thrive

The Associated Press

If there is any advantage to playing at home, the New Jersey Devils have not found it yet this season.

The National Hockey League's best record team made that record even better with a 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on

NHL Roundup

Monday night. The Devils are 23-8-2 on the road, but only 14-13-6 at home.

"It's kind of confusing," said Ken Daneyko, a New Jersey player. "We've had a tough time at home — just over .500. But on the road, at times we seem unbeatable. It just seems we play a simple game on the road. We move the puck, we skate, we don't get into trouble."

"At home we try to do too many things, and sometimes we give up too many odd-man chances and get behind the 8-ball."

Sabres 2, Islanders 1 Miroslav Stanek scored twice and Dwayne Ross gave Buffalo another strong performance in net as the Sabres beat the visiting Islanders.

Satan, with 31 goals, became the first 30-goal scorer for Buffalo since Pat LaFontaine scored 40 in the 1995-1996 season.

Rolosen, starting in place of injured Dominik Hasek, made 23 saves and has allowed one goal in each of his last two starts.

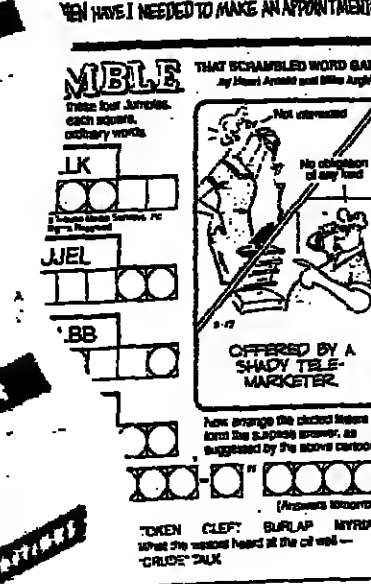
Rangers 1, Capitals 1 Enrico Ciccone scored at 11:44 of the third period to lift Washington into a tie at Madison Square Garden. Rumin Ndur scored his first NHL goal to give the Rangers a 1-0 lead in the first period. Ciccone tied it in the third.

Hurricanes 5, Coyotes 5 In Phoenix, Ron Francis scored twice and Martin Gelin scored with 1:34 left in regulation as Carolina came from three goals down in the third period to tie the Coyotes.

Keith Tkachuk had a goal and three assists for the slumping Coyotes, who have won just three of their last 15 games.

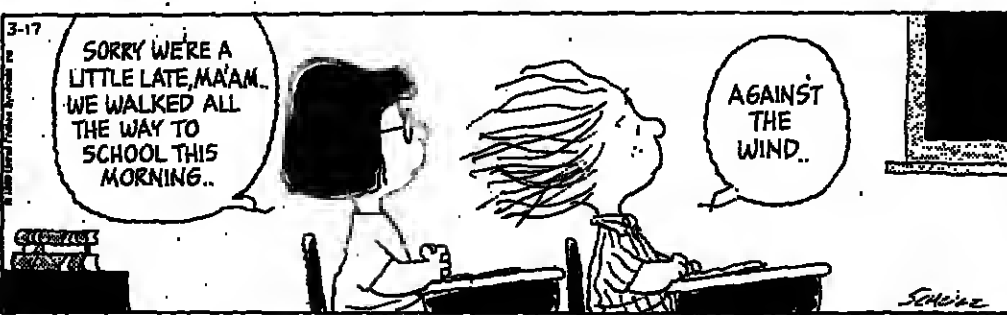
Kings 4, Senators 0 In Los Angeles, Rob Blake became the first defenseman in Kings history to score 100 goals and Stephane Fiset earned his 14th career shutout in beating Ottawa.

DENNIS THE MENACE

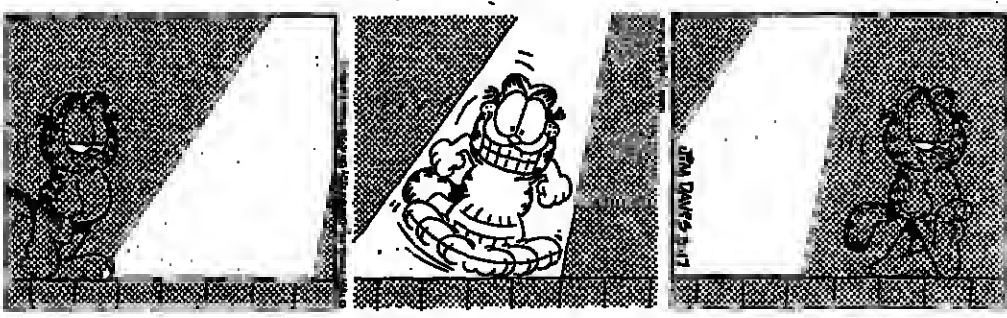


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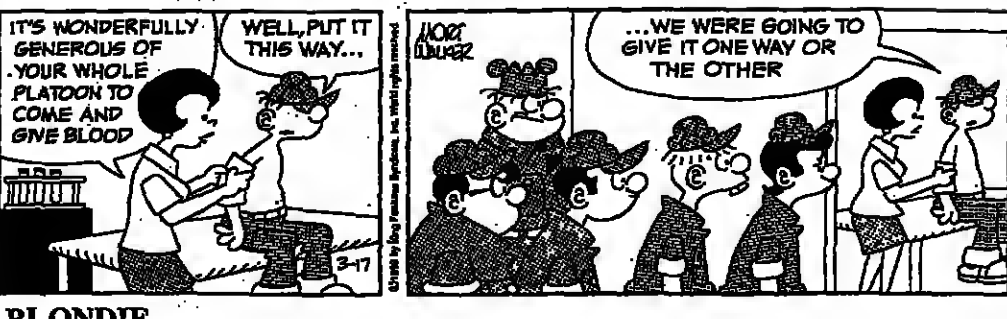
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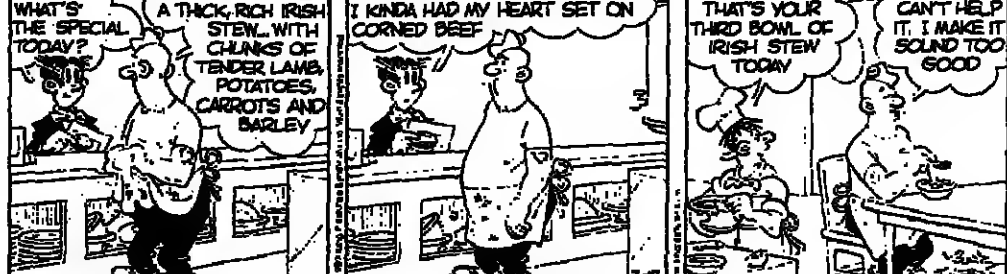
GARFIELD



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



WIZARD OF ID



NON SEQUITUR



POSTCARD

Spanish Imbroglia

By Al Goodman
New York Times Service

MADRID, Spain — When "The Grandfather" ("El Abuelo") won an Oscar nomination last month as best foreign-language film, there was a sense of vindication for its director, Jose Luis Garcia, who has been locked in a nasty battle with Spain's film establishment.

Garcia, who won a foreign-film Oscar in 1983 for "Begin the Beguine," has attacked the leaders of the Spanish film academy as "fascist" for not fully clearing his name after allegations of a vote-buying scheme for Spain's top film awards, the Goyas.

An anonymous letter was sent in December to most of the 771 voting members of the Spanish Academy of Cinematic Arts and Sciences saying that Garcia's aides would personally collect the ballots, which are supposed to be mailed directly to a Madrid notary. Garcia denies any connection to the letter.

It is the biggest scandal ever for Garcia and for the 13-year-old Spanish academy, which some industry veterans regard as a clubby institution whose members have more than once snubbed such internationally known Spanish directors as Pedro Almodovar.

The academy insisted in two statements in January that the matter was settled when no proof emerged of vote buying or improper pressure. The academy dropped the matter, although its president agreed to consider a stricter code of ethics on voting.

That was not enough for Garcia, and he abruptly quit the academy before its Jan. 23 awards ceremony here. "The Grandfather" won just one Goya statuette, for best actor, after being nominated in 13

categories, including best picture and best director.

He said the results demonstrated that he did not buy votes. His lawyers are seeking a more definitive statement from the academy absolving him of any misconduct. "I don't think you can play with a person's honor," Garcia said. "I want a full reparation of the damage, and I hope to get it soon."

Some said that fierce commercial pressures, and perhaps pure envy, may have inspired the anonymous letter. The scandal arose after the film industry had reached cruising speed, with high-quality movies and wide popularity after years of hard work. In 1997, moviegoers bought 13 million tickets to domestic films, accounting for \$52 million in receipts, double the numbers from a decade ago.

The mystery remains over who sent the letter. "We'd need Philip Marlowe to find out," Garcia said.

Rumors have swept Madrid about the letter's author. Some say Garcia may have been singled out as a target for having been perceived as coddling up to the conservative government. But he said that some of his earlier films had anti-Franco themes: "Begin the Beguine" is about a Spaniard in exile after the Civil War who wins the Nobel Prize in literature.

While the harsh words have waned, the wounds do not appear to be healed. After "The Grandfather" became an Oscar finalist, the film's lead actress, Cayetana Guillen Cuervo, who is Garcia's romantic off-screen partner, told the daily El Pais: "Now some people will have to shut up. Or did we buy the American academy, too?"

By Patricia Cohen
New York Times Service

The Limitless Horizons of Russia's Philosophers

MOSCOW — Vladimir Fedorovich Titov is not biter. True, he was chief of the department of Marxist-Leninist philosophy at the prestigious Moscow State University when the faculty voted in 1991, as he put it, to "liquidate completely" his department.

"We decided the question pacifically. Professors understood the political situation," he offers a gentle smile, revealing a gold tooth. This 60-year-old Marxist is now teaching existentialism. "It was a great mistake," he says of his department's elimination. "Marx was a great thinker. Without him you can't do philosophy."

For 70 years Russian philosophy was Marxism-Leninism. It was more than a dusty schoolroom requirement: it was the national religion, the source of the state's political authority and legitimacy.

Vladimir Mironov, chairman of Moscow University's philosophy department, remembers a teacher once telling him, "You get paid a high stipend not because you know philosophy, but because you're going to be an ideologue." These days ideological work doesn't pay that well, but no one knows yet what will replace it.

Of course, the old guard, professors like Titov, still have their teaching jobs, and some of the textbooks have changed nothing more than their titles. But Russian philosophy, freed from the Marxist straitjacket, is clumsily stretching its arms, testing its reach.

Instead of looking at every problem through the lens of scientific socialism, philosophers can now reinvent themselves: they can be analytical or mystical, try logic or phenomenology. The ethics of political and economic success are suddenly acceptable subjects for ethicists, as are abortion and organ transplants. In epistemology, the study of knowledge, scholars can now examine a subject once off-limits, like the religious roots of science.

This freedom has pitched Russian philosophy both backward and forward. In some cases Russians have looked inward, sifting through their own past to rediscover the philosophical heritage that was suppressed during most of the Soviet period. Some have turned to the religious philosophy of the Christian Orthodox church, while others are re-examining the 19th-century notion of the "Russian idea," the nation's unique historical mission. Still others have looked outside,

to Europe's and America's postmodernists.

What philosophical school is most popular now? "What day is it?" Mironov responded with a laugh.

The "all of the above" option is, to some degree, precisely the point of a post-communist world. Yet as these and other ideas rush to fill the vacuum left by communism, the question is whether Russians will be tempted by a substitute orthodoxy.

"People understood Marx very dogmatically," said Ruben Апресян, who teaches at the Institute of Philosophy in Moscow, historically a more autonomous institution than Moscow State University. Now "they are replacing one set of axioms with another." In this sense, how the born-again field of philosophy develops is a bellwether of Russia's intellectual life in general, and of its ties to the country's politics and economy.

The most predictable impulse after the fall of communism was Russian scholars' desire to fill in the gaps of their history. Although some of the writings of homegrown philosophers like Vladimir Solovyov, Nikolai Berdyaev and Ivan Ilyan began to be available in the Khrushchev era, they were carefully controlled. You could talk about them,

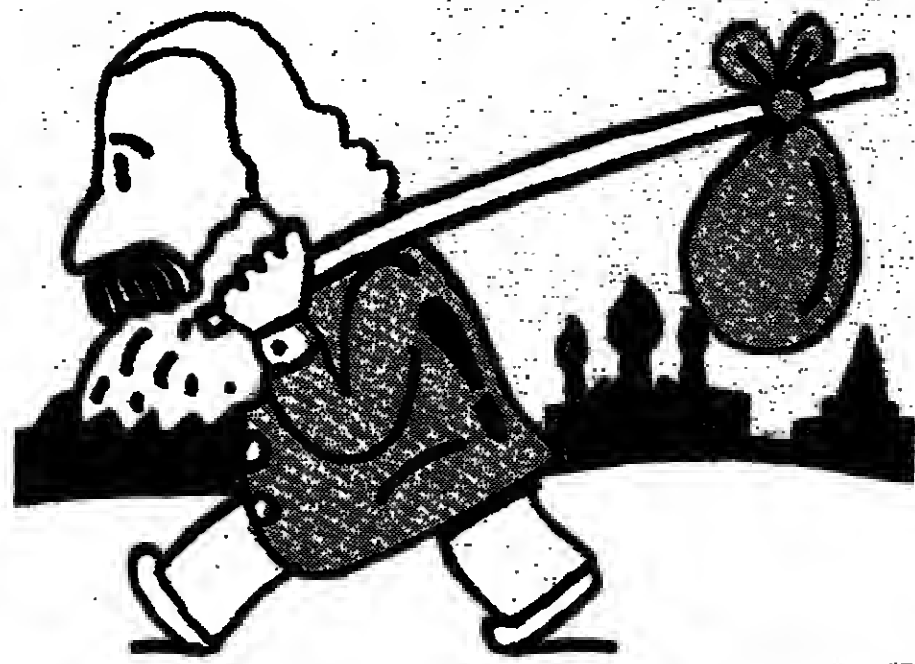
says Elmar Sokolov (whose parents chose E for Engels, L for Lenin, M for Marx), but you couldn't write about them.

Sokolov's thin face, gray hair and weathered pin-stripe suit are illuminated by St. Petersburg's iron-tinted afternoon light. Outside is the snowy garden he ran through as a boy during the Nazi siege of Leningrad; inside this professor's study are black-and-white photos of his family, Czars Alexander II and Nicholas II, and Berdyaev.

Even though small public lectures on Berdyaev were allowed in the mid-1980s, "a friend had problems because he said Berdyaev was more important than Lenin," Sokolov remembers. "He was fired, then sent to a bad university to teach. Then he emigrated."

Berdyaev, one of the best known Russian philosophers, turned his back on Marxism in 1922 and was deported to Paris, where he wrote about Russia's destiny as the new Jerusalem. The Russians, he said, were a special spiritual, organic people with a mission to transform society.

Like many other intellectuals and writers he was deeply influenced by Solovyov, the 19th-century philosopher whose complete works are now being published for the first time.



Solovyov, who coined the term "the Russian idea," had a mystical bent and saw Christianity as the repository of supreme wisdom.

The return of "the Russian idea" worries those who fear that a belief in Russia's exceptionalism could turn into a dangerous messianism. When many Russians feel humiliated, the notion of a divine mission offers psychological compensation. It also seems to set the stage for a replay of the tug of war between nationalist, conservative Slavophiles and progressive, secular Westernizers, a struggle that Dostoyevsky savagely satirized in his 1872 novel "Demons."

Yet this opposition between East and West has often been exaggerated. The simple idea that Russia has a unique character, a particular "Russkii mentalitet," appeals not only to fierce nationalists, but to religious leaders, poets, anti-communists (who see Marx as a Western import), as well as young, liberal Western-educated scholars who don't want to see Russia's form squashed into a one-size-fits-all American-style suit.

That is particularly true at the moment, when Western-style liberalism has taken such a bantering here. Instead of rose-colored glasses, many Russians now see the West through what Апресян calls "gray glasses." Intellectuals in Moscow and St. Petersburg agreed.

"There is a disenchantment with Western liberal ideology," said Vladimir Lektorsky, editor of the leading philosophy journal, Voprosy Filosofii (Problems of Philosophy). "Liberalism was reduced only to minimal government and private property, with disastrous results." In theory and practice liberalism itself had turned into a kind of dogma. Corruption, poverty, a dwindling industrial base and agricultural system, and governmental chaos hadn't exactly help salvage the capitalist dream.

But one Western notion that has captured the imagination of the younger generation of scholars is French postmodernism. "Every second person considers himself a postmodernist," Mironov said.

In many ways postmodernism seems the perfect philosophy for a post-communist society. After years of listening to the ruling party dish out the "Truth," postmodernism's insistence on competing notions of truth is a refreshing change. Its skepticism of authority extends to Western assumptions about the straight path of progress and common attributes. Thus, those who hold on to a sense of Russia's uniqueness are drawn to it as well.



DRESSES FOR CHARITY — Natasha Richardson, left, and Elizabeth Taylor at a New York party before an auction to benefit AIDS research. The auction will be of dresses worn to the Oscars by well-known actresses.

PEOPLE

A STAR-STUDED group has signed on to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Ernest Hemingway's birth. The panel of authors includes Derek Walcott, Kenzaburo Oe, George Plimpton, E. Annie Proulx, Henry Louis Gates, Gail Caldwell, Chinua Achebe and the Nobel laureates Saul Bellow and Nadine Gordimer. The authors will reflect on Hemingway's influence on world literature at the Hemingway Centennial, to be held at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston on April 10 and 11. Hemingway, born in Oak Park, Illinois, in 1899, killed himself in 1961.

The third annual World Press Freedom Prize will be awarded to a crusading Mexican editor who continues to investigate drug traffickers two years after an almost fatal assassination attempt. Jesus Blacornelas, the editor in chief and founder of the Tijuana-based weekly Zeta, will receive the \$25,000 award given by the United Nations and the Bogota-based

Guillermo Cano Foundation in Bogota on May 3.

Buddy Holly's relatives have sued the singer's record label, charging that the company hoarded royalty payments, forged contracts and produced albums without family consent. The lawsuit against MCA Records seeks unspecified damages. The plaintiffs are Buddy Holly's widow, Maria; his brothers, Larry and Travis Holley, and his sister, Pat Holley. The lawsuit, filed in a Texas state court in Lubbock, where Holly came from, charges that the MCA contracts providing for royalties to Holly's heirs are legally questionable and should be negotiated. Holly, whose hits included "That'll Be the Day,"

died in a plane crash at age 21 in 1959.

The shock rocker Marilyn Manson has canceled three concerts after spraining an ankle during a show in Inglewood, California. He hurt himself jumping from a speaker onto the stage Sunday night, and the concert was cut short. Manson, advised to rest his ankle for five days, canceled shows in San Diego, Las Vegas and Phoenix.

Two Broadway performances of "Death of a Salesman" were canceled because its star, Brian Dennehy, was hospitalized with what his spokesman said was high blood pressure. Performances Sunday and Tuesday were canceled because Dennehy, whose role as Willy Loman requires him to be on stage for almost three hours, has no understudy. His publicist said a decision would be made Tuesday on whether Dennehy would be able to perform in Wednesday's matinee.

New Enlistees at the Rock Hall of Fame

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Bruce Springsteen, a regular at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's annual ceremonies since its first members were named in 1986, has been inducted himself, along with Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Dusty Springfield, Curtis Mayfield, Del Shannon and the Staple Singers.

McCartney and Mayfield had already been inducted as members of the Beatles and the Impressions.

Current stars — including Lauryn Hill, the winner of this year's Grammy Award for best album, Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt and Elton John — attended the ceremony and jam session at the Waldorf-Astoria on Monday night.

John paid homage to Dusty Springfield, who died on March 2. "When I first heard that voice, I fell in love with that voice," he said. "I think she's the greatest white singer that there ever has been."



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